FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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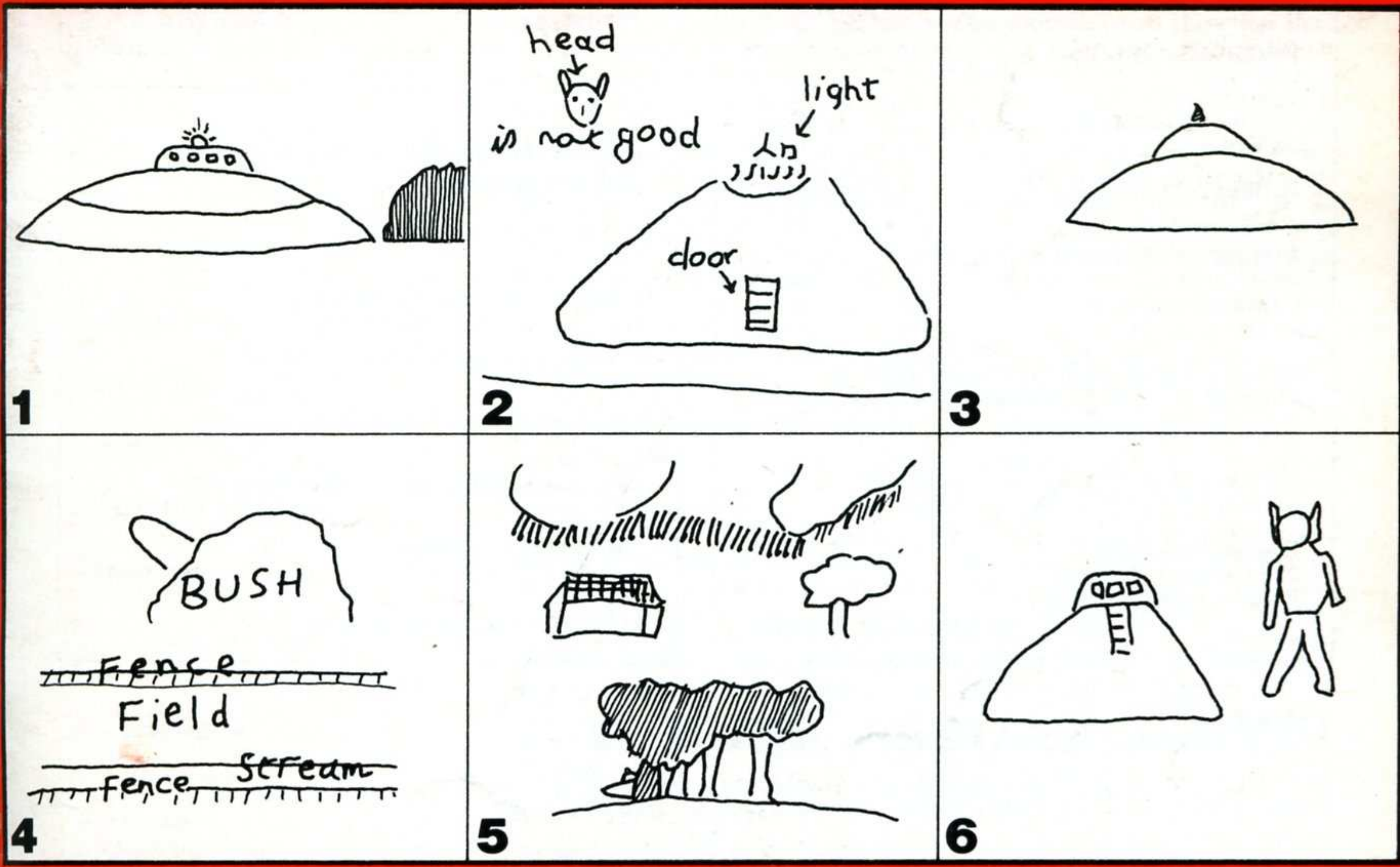

A feature of the great United Kingdom wave ...

BROAD HAVEN SCHOOL REPORT

See page 3

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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AIRCREW EYEWITNESSES

DURING the course of the last twelve months or so there has been an impressive increase in the number of UFO reports made publicly by members of the aircrews of civil airliners.

The cynics among ufologists will point out that any increase in reports from such sources is bound to be impressive when, in the recent past, there were long periods when no UFO reports of any description were made in public by pilots and aircrew. Indeed, if there were any public acknowledgement that an airliner had been in the proximity of an unknown object, it would almost certainly have been because passengers, who are not subjected to muzzling by regulations, had witnessed the incident. And to those readers who may object to the suggestion that pilots and aircrew have been muzzled, then we seek to disabuse their minds of such thinking, and not without good cause.

About ten years ago the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* was invited to give a talk on UFOs to a ladies' club somewhere near Ascot. It was an "open night" and many of the members had their husbands with them, and it quickly became evident at question time that some of those husbands were airmen. As the evening drew to a close, one of them, who identified himself as a senior captain, took your Editor aside and cònfided that while flying he had had a relatively close encounter with an unknown, and similar experiences had been shared by many of his BOAC and BEA colleagues, and indeed by aircrew the world over. He added, however, that the rule here in the United Kingdom was that such incidents should only be reported officially, and to the Ministry of Defence; there should be no communication of information to the public and the media. Some two years before that, a well-known test pilot of sophisticated military aircraft, who at that time was a neighbour of the Editor of this journal, and whose interest stemmed from his own experience, had volunteered a similar revelation.

It went without saying that similar restrictions were applied to aircrew throughout the world.

Now, suddenly, the stranglehold seems to be slipping, and reports, and even case histories, of aircrew-reported UFO incidents have recently appeared in this journal – with more to follow.

Captain Philps, of the *Carvair* sighting over Thanet, got us off to a gentle enough start, but before long came the remarkable British Airways *Trident* involvement in a radar/visual incident near Lisbon, an occurrence that was shared on July 30, 1976, with a British Airways *TriStar* and a TAP *Boeing 727* (whose commander's corroborative report is carried in this issue of FSR). Then there was the report of another TAP jet, a *Boeing 707* which, after take-off from Faro Airport, Lisbon, nearly collided with an oval-shaped, multicoloured UFO on September 19, 1976.

Since then we have learned from the captain of an Iberia Airlines *Boeing 727*, who gave his story to a newspaper, how a strange object had paced his aircraft for 20 minutes at 17,000 feet on November 19, 1976, as he approached Madrid on a flight from Santiago de Compostela. More recently, on January 21, 1977, an Avianca jet had just taken off from Bogota, Columbia, when at 20,000 feet, its captain and crew observed the alarming, albeit erratic, head-on approach of a glowing UFO. This too was confirmed on radar. The story of what happened was told to the press, with additional accounts by officers from the control tower (due to appear in our next issue).

Significantly, the captain of the *Trident* of the Portuguese incident of July 30, 1976, was given clearance to appear with Professor John Taylor, Police Sergeant Digweed and the Editor of FSR on a Thames Television production with Mary Parkinson in the *Good Afternoon* series on April 12, 1977. To those establishmentarians and other die-hards who would wish all UFO reports to be swept under the carpet, it must have been galling to see the commanding, uniformed figure of a highly responsible airline pilot like Captain Denis Wood (the "D.W." of Omar Fowler's report in FSR Vol. 22, No. 4) speaking with calm authority about the intriguing affair.

One can appreciate that reports of radar-visual sightings must cause very great concern, for where they remain unexplained they can be included among the most potent evidence in the records of UFO encounters aloft; evidence calculated to impress a public hitherto conditioned for the most part to ridicule of UFO witnesses.

While we must aplaud the fact that aircrew witnesses of UFO manifestations have suddenly taken to speaking out about their experiences, we should at the same time pause to wonder not only *why* it is happening, but also why it is being *allowed* to happen.

"TRIDENT": EXPLANATION OFFERED

Since the foregoing Editorial leader was prepared, the July 30, 1976, story has been given coverage in the press and on radio and television. As a result, ITN tell us that Southampton University have claimed that Captain Wood and his crew probably saw one of their experimental plastic balloons, an explanation that has been publicly accepted.

When I met him Captain Wood was extremely doubtful that it was a balloon, but it seems he has now changed his opinion, and if the object were such a balloon it would certainly satisfy some of the data and solve part of the problem, including the homeward journey radar returns. However, it is doubtful whether it could be held responsible for the very large dark objects which suddenly appeared in the vicinity of the bright light in an otherwise cloudless sky.

Again, one cannot help but wonder why such a contraption was released, as claimed, to drift, apparently hazardously close to busy air routes, within the limited range of ground control radars and (according to Captain Wood and his colleagues) at 8 miles well within the even more limited range of the aircraft's radars. All this seemingly without warning to the ground controllers who, knowing nothing about it, had to ask the airliner crews if they could identify it. Surely there are hazards enough?

Of course, in view of all this ignorance about it, there remains the possibility that the object may not have been a balloon.

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MEN IN BLACK: Articles, information, personal experiences, etc., concerning MIB required for research project. Write: Box No. 10, FSR Publications Ltd.

BROAD HAVEN SCHOOL REPORT

Randall Jones Pugh

Our contributor, a retired veterinary surgeon, is a BUFORA co-ordinator for the area and a correspondent of the recently formed UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN)

AT 4.50 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 1977, I received a telephone call from a lady who claimed that her 10-year-old son, David Davies had, in company with some 14 other children, seen a UFO which had landed near their school in Broad Haven, Dyfed, West Wales, and which had apparently frightened the youngsters appreciably, since they fled en masse.

Accordingly I drove down to Mrs. Davies' home at Solbury Hostel, Tiers Cross, and interviewed her son David, who subsequently agreed to accompany me to the spot. We arrived at Broad Haven School at 6.00 p.m. and made our way to the spot where the children had witnessed the UFO (see map). However, it was raining heavily at the time and it was also becoming dusk, and in view of the fact that further progress to the actual site of the landing was impeded by a fence bordering a swiftly flowing stream, I decided to leave any further investigation until the following morning. I did, however, note the spot where David informed me the UFO had been seen. This was done by alignment in relation to the trees which obstructed the view of it, and also in relation to a number of telegraph poles which ran down alongside the hedge behind the landing site.

On the Saturday morning I telephoned a local news reporter, Mr. Hugh Turnbull of the *Western Telegraph*, and asked if he would like to accompany me to the site. He agreed to do this, so along with my companion of the previous night, David Davies, the three of us went by a different route into the field itself. We found what David thought was the landing site, but in spite of an extensive search for imprints, tread marks and so on, we found nothing.

It should be appreciated that the heavy rain might have been sufficiently heavy to have obliterated all traces of an actual landing, but I consider this improbable.

Certain of the children were interviewed by myself, and also by their headmaster, who was astute enough to separate them immediately he had heard their descriptions of the event, and instructed them to record their impressions. At this juncture, it is to be regretted that the initial reaction on the part of all the teachers was, perhaps not unnaturally, one of total disbelief. In effect, by the time it was realised that all the children were in dead earnest, some of the teachers had themselves gone out to investigate. Unfortunately they could not corroborate the children's claims since the "thing" had vanished.

Now, whilst one has inevitably to be most careful in the assessment of any claims made by children in such a bizarre and emotive subject as ufology, generally it must be recognised that in a close study of the drawings done immediately after the "event" there is a basic similarity both in their drawn impressions of what they considered they had seen, and in their verbal descriptions. According to their headmaster, Mr. Ralph Llewellyn, they were quite adamant in their assertions that they had seen something they could not normally account for, and he accepted their opinions. Certainly, in their drawings of the "vehicle" and its "occupants" I feel quite

THE INCIDENT THAT AROUSED GREAT INTEREST

A report that fourteen children of the junior school at Broad Haven, near Haverfordwest, had watched a landed UFO in a field, and that a humanoid shape had been observed, caused something of a stir in the Principality, with Television, Radio and the newspapers all deeply involved; the news also reached some National newspapers. It also led to a filmed interview of some of the children being shown on BBC TV's fabulous *Swap Shop* programme, which has national coverage and an audience of at least 7½ million. The Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* also appeared on the programme for a discussion on UFOs with John Craven and later, with John and Noel Edmonds, answered viewer's telephoned questions.

Here is an extract from the *Western Telegraph* (date not quoted on the cutting, but probably February 7, 1977) about the incident:—

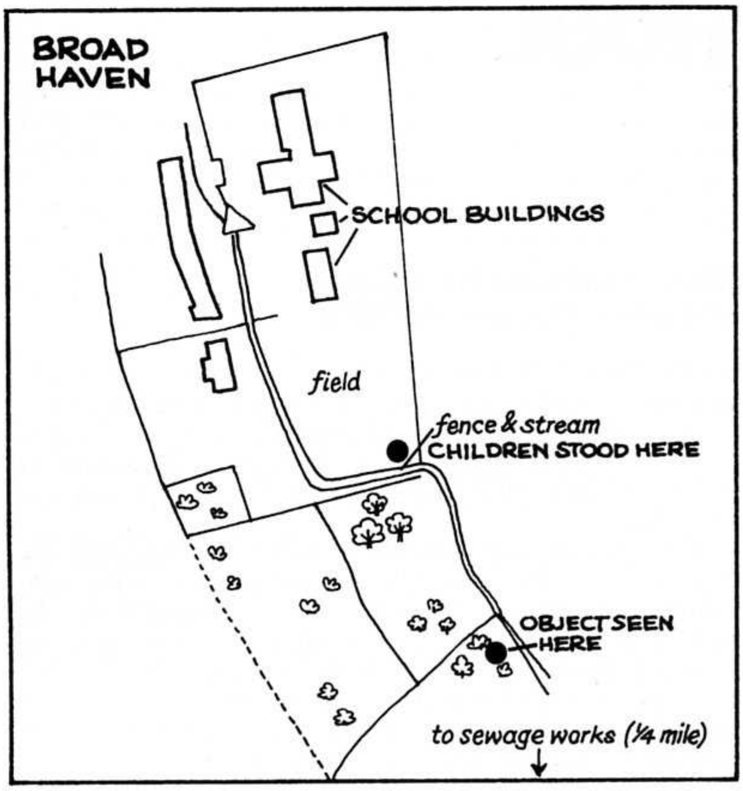
"...the flying saucer was first seen at lunchtime on Friday, behind a bush about 300 yards from the school.

"'Most children give the object a classical saucer shape, though others have drawn it looking more like a pudding, or even like a cigar. Some accounts give it a dome and windows, others say it had a flashing light.

"The children say it disappeared and re-appeared from time to time. It was seen by other pupils during the afternoon break and immediately after school.

"Six of the youngsters say they saw a spaceman with the saucer. He was dressed in the same silvery grey colour as his saucer and — according to some witnesses — he had pointed ears like Mr. Spock.

"Ten-year-old David Ward said: 'He wasn't a very tall person, and he didn't look very nice either.' "



confident that there has been no collusion whatsoever.

It is of interest that the parent of one of the schoolchildren Squadron Leader Tim Webb, completely accepts what his son Michael told me of the incident, and considers that "...there is no real answer as to what it could have been if not a UFO."

However, on February 17, 1977, one of the school-teachers, a lady who wishes to remain anonymous, had occasion to go outside her class room, and she reports that "...on leaving school (by the side entrance, facing east) something shining caught my eye. I stopped, and could see a large object, oval-shaped and with a slight dome, the colour of shining metal, and I also noted ridges. I stepped back, intending to call someone, and then heard a humming noise and watched the object glide away to the left. A field and trees then appeared. I know the area very well as I have frequently walked there. The time was approximately 10.30 a.m. and it was pouring with rain. The distance was about 200 yards."

A comparison of this lady's UFO sighting account form and those of some of the children show a striking similarity.

Some time later, possibly an hour or so, two other ladies who also worked in the school, went outside the school building and saw an object. It was raining at the time, and was somewhat misty. They were aware of the claims made by the children prior to going outside, and went to ascertain for themselves. Their impression was that the "object" they could see was a sewerage lorry in the field, and indeed, so convinced were they that they "had solved the mystery," that they informed the headmaster to this effect. Now this is in sharp contrast to the teacher who claims in her report that she saw it "glide away," and in view of the time factor the "thing" must have returned to precisely the same spot.

The ladies were so convinced that what had caused all the furore was a prosaic sewerage lorry that on the following morning, accompanied by their husbands, they went to the spot to look for tyre marks. None, however, were found.

It should be noted at this point that the field has, initially, a gentle slope, which becomes quite steep at the point of the landing. So, even if a lorry was able to get into the field it certainly would never have been able to get out, because there was a morass of mud at the bottom. The amount of sticky, glutinous sludge at this spot accords well with the verbal description given me by David Davies that when he saw the object behind the trees it seemed to give a "tugging action" as though it were well and truly "stuck in the mud."

I was later informed that no council lorry or workmen engaged in sludge removal had been in the field.

I must emphasise here that from the vantage point where the children claimed they saw the UFO, the observer looks up a rising slope of ground somewhat sparsely covered by trees and shrubs, so that in effect the observers were looking not so much through leafless trees as between two trees growing closely together, but with a narrow gap between their trunks. In a subsequent BBC television programme it was suggested that what the children saw was indeed the rotating arm of a sewerage macerating machine, but I discount this totally, since the mechanism is below eye-level anyway from the point of observation.

Since I know many of the people concerned in this case personally it is my considered opinion that this case history is factually correct, even though there may be slight variations in respect of the descriptions of the humanoid(s).

One last observation: if a very real fear be regarded as any criterion, one of the boys fell as he ran away, bruising his leg and, apparently, he became almost hysterical.

OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION

Investigator Randall Pugh arranged for the schoolboy witnesses to complete standard BUFORA questionnaire forms, and to provide drawings of what they had seen. A selection of these appear on the cover, and are numbered so that the names of those who drew them may be identified...

1. Michael M. Webb
2. Tudor Owen Jones
3. Jeremy Passmore
4. David John Davies
5. Philip James Rees
6. David R. George

Extracts from the boys' written answers are given on page 5.

[**BUFORA address**: Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, England]

DESCRIPTIONS BY THE BROAD HAVEN SCHOOLBOYS

David John Davies, aged 10: (Only second sighting reported). Stated that they were standing at the top end of the school playing field, watching a bush where it [the object] was sighted. Philip [Rees] was trying to get a closer look when "...up from the bush popped a cigar-shaped object. It was silvery, bright and humming. It seemed to be tugging. Then we all ran." The time was 3.35 p.m. as they had just come out of school.

Philip James Rees, aged 10: Stated that he saw a silvery object at ground level at approximately 1.30 p.m., just after having school dinner. The object was still there when he went back into school at 2.00 p.m. Wrote Philip: "My friends and I asked the headmaster to have a look at the object, but he refused. A couple of my friends saw movement of a figure, but I did not. I was frightened. Two friends, Tudor and David, were very frightened."

Michael Mathieson Webb, aged 11: "It was silver and a cigar shape with a big dome and a red light flashing on top."

David R. George, aged 9: Saw both manifestations, the first after 1.00 p.m. and the second at about 3.35 to 3.40 p.m. Stated that the object was "huge" and silver-coloured. It was shining and humming, and looked like a "saucer with a point." He saw the "occupant" [described by him as the "man"] who was silver-suited, and whose features were not seen, apart from his ears, which were "long." During the second observation, one boy was so frightened that he cried.

Tudor Owen Lloyd Jones, aged 10: Of the lunch-time incident, said the object was at ground level and behind a bush. Stated that he saw a "man" and admitted that he was very scared.

Jeremy Passmore, aged 9: Wrote..."I saw the UFO when it was dinner time. It was a silvery green and it had a yellowy orange to red colour light. It was a disc at the bottom and a sort of dome on the top with the light on top. It was about 300 yards away. It moved a minute and then disappeared. It did have a noise, but I didn't hear it. We felt very scared. David George wanted someone to go to the toilet with him. Tudor Jones he was nearly crying because he was scared that he was going to be disintegrated or something so we all rushed in. Some of our school did not believe us. We tried to make them believe us but they would not." In answers to specific questions, Jeremy stated that the sighting lasted not less than 5 minutes, that the object was on the ground, and that he saw a person in a silverish suit about 350 yards away.

Summing up in a joint statement, David Davies wrote: "Adults will not believe us, except Mum, Mr. Pugh, and Mrs. Hanlan, [who] almost believes us.. "

WEST WALES ROUND-UP

We have been told there have been as many as 60 UFO reports down in Dyfed during the past four months, among them several CEIs, IIs and IIIs. Local investigators have been swamped, so while we await detailed reports here is a selection from recent newspaper accounts.

Wales

West Wales flap builds up

Following the Broad Haven incident a number of other sightings have been reported in the South West corner of Wales. The following item, under the signature of **Hugh Turnbull** appeared in the *Western Telegraph* of April 14, 1977,–"Why are beings from outer space so interested in Josephine Hewison's greenhouse?

"And why were Pauline Coombes and her family chased for more than a mile by a flying football?

"These are the questions on the mind of local ufologist Randall Pugh this week as he probes the latest in the bizarre series of flying saucer sightings in Pembrokeshire.

"The new sightings both occurred less than three miles from the Broad Haven primary school, where 14 children saw the best publicised of the recent crop of saucers.

Little Haven landing

"Mrs. Josephine Hewison is a batchelor of science, down-to-earth farmer's wife and a person not given to imagining things.

"And she is positive that she saw a 40-foot flying saucer parked next to her greenhouse at Lower Broadmoor Farm, Little Haven.

"Mrs. Hewison was in her bedroom 100 yards away when she noticed the shiny, silver object. It annoyed her to think someone had parked by the greenhouse. Then it dawned on her that this was no ordinary vehicle.

"She watched her unearthly visitor for more than two minutes. Then it vanished in seconds while she was trying to get a closer look.

" 'When I realised it wasn't from the farm, I thought it must be a UFO,' she said. 'I don't think it could have been anything else.'

"The saucer Mrs. Hewison saw was virtually identical to the object described by the Broad Haven schoolchildren.

" 'One of my children thought he saw it, but he jumps on any bandwagon,' she said. 'My first reaction to the children's story was that it was good for a laugh, and that's all. I didn't believe in flying saucers then, but I'm decidedly less sceptical now.'

"Mrs. Hewison wasn't frightened by her saucer. In fact, she'd like a chance to see it again.

"According to Mr. Pugh, it's unlikely that she will. He says the odds against seeing even one UFO are 12,000 to one.

"But farmer's wife Pauline Coombes claims to have seen three UFOs this year. According to Mrs. Coombes, they are so interested in her that they even follow her car.

Auto pacing, Little Haven-Dale

Mrs. Coombes was driving near Little Haven with her three children when 10-year-old Keiron spotted a strange light dropping out of the sky towards them. His mother put her foot down and accelerated under the falling object. But Keiron, watching through the back window, saw the thing stop in mid-air and begin to follow the car. He described the UFO as a yellow ball, about the size of a football, with a torch-like beam from its base.

"It kept hedge-hopping alongside the car for more than a mile. Then, just as the family reached their home–Ripperston Farm, Dale – the engine and lights suddenly died.

"Mrs. Coombes, Keiron and her twin daughters Layanne and Joanne, aged eight, dashed into the house to fetch her husband, Bill. But by the time he came out, the flying football had disappeared.

" 'We were all very frightened, especially the children, who were in tears,' said Mrs. Coombes.

UFO seen from St. Clears

"Yet another UFO has been spotted by bloodstock breeder Mr. Peter Burford of Glasfryn, St. Clears.

" 'My wife first saw a thin orange-red light on the horizon,' he said. 'It seemed to be pulsating, but for two minutes remained quite stationary.'

"Mr. Burford watched it for about 20 minutes as it silently left its position and moved towards Carmarthen. He rang Carmarthen police, who suggested it had been a plane or a helicopter. But RAF Brawdy told him they had not been operating in the area at the time.

" 'The officer on duty asked me to describe what I had seen,' Mr. Burford continued. 'When I told him, he said it sounded like one of the UFOs that had been sighted in the Ferryside area recently.

" 'I would like to feel that what I saw was just a light from a helicopter,' he added. 'But I'm perfectly sure in my own mind that it was something more than that.'

Huge object over Croesgoch

"The space travellers were even working over the Bank Holiday, taking the time to put the wind up holiday-maker Mr. David Smith.

"Mr. Smith, from Anglesey, is staying at Croesgoch, where he saw a huge spaceship hovering about 600 feet from the ground on Monday night. He said the ship appeared about six feet long, even though he was a mile or so away from it.

" 'It was a golden, pencil shaped light at an angle in the sky with what looked like a snout at the top end. Underneath was another patch of light, more rounded.' "

Credit: **F.W. Holiday** of Haverfordwest.

A faceless giant at the window

The following is extracted from a Hugh Turnbull report in the *Western Telegraph* of April 28, 1977.

"Farmer's wife Mrs. Pauline Coombs wants to leave her farm near Little Haven because of the unearthly things that are happening to her.

The Coombs family have seen three UFOs...in one incident, Mrs. Coombs claims her car was chased by a 'flying football' – but her most terrifying encounter came early on Saturday morning.

"She was watching a late TV film with her husband, Billy, when they saw a faceless giant at the window of their Ripperston Farmhouse.

"A few days earlier, an identical figure scared Mrs. Coombs' 11 year-old nephew, Mark Marston, while he was looking for birds' nests near his home at Herbrandston.

"Dairyman Mr. Billy Coombs described his spaceman as 'seven to eight feet high and silvery grey. His face was all black, as if he had something dark covering it,' he said.

"Mrs. Coombs rang local ufologist Mr. Randall Pugh, who advised her to contact the police. Mr. Coombs said the figure stayed at the window for at least 10 minutes, but there was no sign of it when the police arrived.

" 'It was definitely a man, but a terrible size and so broad. It's impossible for it to have been a human being.

" 'I didn't believe in these things before, but I'll certainly believe in future. My wife wants to leave here now because she's frightened to death.'

Entity drifts through closed gate

"Mark Marston was just as terrified by the man he saw at Herbrandston. He said he was searching a hedge for birds' nests when a red glow appeared in the sky 50 yards away.

"Seconds later, a figure appeared and drifted through a closed gate at the other end of the field. It followed as Mark backed away, moving quickly and silently over the ground. He described the figure as being dressed in a silver suit like a diver, with a big helmet and a square, featureless face.

"Mark ran home to 14, St. Margaret's Way, screaming and crying. 'That's the only reason we believed him,' said his father, Mr. Terry Marston.

" 'He was very frightened. His story was the same every time and we couldn't catch him out.' "

UFO and occupant again

Never have there been so many occupant reports as there have been during the U.K. wave of 1976-77. Hampshire, Staffordshire, Durham, and West Wales. This new case from the Principality was reported in the *Western Telegraph* of March 17, 1977. The incident took place on March 13, 1977—"A peaceful evening walk down a quite country road near Brawdy into a night of terror for 17-year-old Stephen Taylor on Sunday when he came face to unearthly face with a visitor from outer space!

"Stephen, who lives at Upper Llethyr, Penycwm, passed only a matter of yards from the 'person' who was standing by a gate in a field.

" 'I was so frightened that I just took a swing at it and ran,' he told the *Telegraph* later.

"But Stephen's terror didn't prevent him getting a good impression of the figure, whom he later described to UFO investigator Randall Pugh of Camrose.

" 'The man was over six feet tall with very high cheekbones and big eyes,' he said. 'He was wearing a sort of semi-transparent suit and was coming towards me'.

"Earlier, about 9 p.m., Stephen spotted a mysterious light in the sky – 'a pear drop shape, glowing orange'. He ran into a friend's house to tell him, but was met with disbelief. Half a mile down the road, he realised that the same shape had appeared in the field – in fact it was so large that it was blocking out the familiar lights on the horizon – and it had an aura of light around it.

"Mr. Pugh went to Penycwm on Monday evening, hoping to find some sign in the field that the craft had been there. But as it was dark, and had been raining heavily, he was not able to see very clearly.

" 'This is certainly no hoax,' he stressed yesterday. 'When a boy is as frightened as Stephen was – and especially when his mother confirms that – there must have been something there. There is a lack of normality about the whole thing.'

"Mr. Pugh also went to RAF Brawdy, and asked some of the air crews doing normal routice practice in the area if they would look out at the field to see if there was any scorched or flattened grass that would indicate that some presence had been there.

"Yesterday morning, Mr. Pugh again went to the field to look for any signs, but it had all been trodden down by cattle."

Credit: **Robert Whitrow** of Neath.

THAT BBC-TV DOCUMENTARY

In July last year Gordon Creighton, Jonathan Caplan and I were asked by producer Hugh Burnett if we would collaborate in the making of a serious documentary on UFOs and occupants. The likely duration was to be 40 to 45 minutes. Having seen his excellent Loch Ness documentary, we agreed. We also made many suggestions, like bringing in Dr. C. Poher from France, and excellent French cases, but BBC was unable to undertake these due to budgetary limitations. Having filmed hour-long interviews in October 1976, Gordon and I sat back and waited. Then we learned that the time allocation was to be one hour on May 10, 1977, but we had no say in what was added. As readers surely know, FSR has no time for hill-top skywatching, for neo-religious battery-chargers, or for holes at the poles.

CHARLES BOWEN

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FLAP WITH HUMANOID REPORT

Jenny Randles

DURING the month of December 1976 the Midlands, and North Staffordshire in particular, were the source of a series of reports which can only be the product of a flap of fairly major proportions. It is most interesting to note that these reports, which contain examples of possible landings and entity cases, come at a time when Britain has been experiencing something which has all the early indications of being a new wave of important cases. There have been several close encounters, such as the Bowles/Pratt incidents from Winchester (see *Flying Saucer Review* Vol.22, No.5) and a similar event from County Durham (see FSR Vol.22, No.6). Such a build up in sightings *was* anticipated by some researchers, bearing in mind the important events of 1967, and there appears to be every possibility that 1977 will be a significant year for the manifestation of the phenomenon in Britain.

Our contributor is Secretary of the newly-organised UFO Investigators Network (UFO-IN) which has members dispersed, and ready to conduct investigations, throughout many parts of Britain. Address: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NJ. Telephone: 061 775 4749.

EDITOR

Wetley Rocks, Stoke-on-Trent

The events appear to have begun on December 9th when two young women were driving through Wetley Rocks, near Stoke, at 7.45 p.m. The night was frosty and clear. Ahead of them they saw a series of lights which appeared to be hovering low down over fields by the roadside. At first it was assumed that they were lights on a helicopter, but as the place was approached it became clear that this object was, in fact, much too large. The lights were in a tiered formation and measured the apparent size of a tennis ball at arms length horizontally, and a golf ball at arms length vertically. They were flashing orange, white and blue, but were completely stationary.

The women slowed down and drove close by the field. The car window was wound down but no sound was heard. It was apparent to them now that this was something peculiar because they knew the road well and there are overhead electricity cables crossing the field. Whatever was present was hovering over these. Suddenly the lights just went out, and there was no further trace of the object.

There are an enormous number of similarities between this observation, and some more interesting ones which occurred on the nights of December 13th and 14th, and it is worth bearing in mind that there was no publicity for the fact that a large number of sightings were occurring in the area until December 16th. The eyewitnesses involved in these events were all unknown to one another.

North Staffs Dunkirk

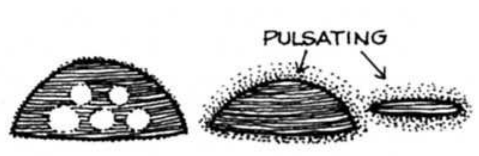
On the evening of December 13th the area was blanketed in fog. A woman art teacher in the tiny village of Dunkirk, on the edge of the Cheshire plains, had just come out of her neighbour's house at 5.20 p.m. when in the sky to the NNW, at an elevation of about 45° she saw a bright object glowing fiercely against a dark sky, and surrounded by swirling mist. It was orange-coloured, shaped like an oval with a flat bottom, and had two tiers of bright lights inside it. In size it was larger than an apple held at arm's length. It appeared to be hovering over an electricity pylon.

After two to three minutes it appeared to recede, pulsating and fading until only a glow was left. This then crystalised into an elliptical bar of orange light until this too faded and disappeared within seconds.

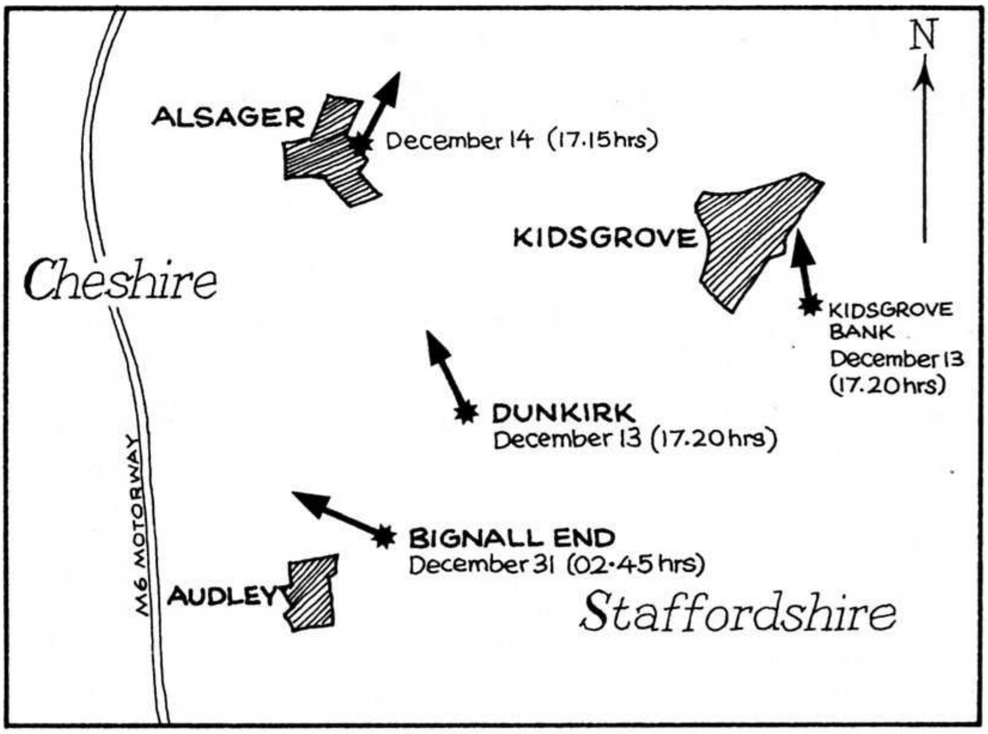
The woman went indoors after the incident and immediately drew some marvellous colour pictures of the object in its various stages. Fortunately investigators were able to get to her within two hours of the incident and take down her story, so that the details would appear to be very accurate.

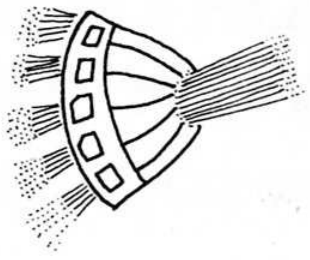
After the object had gone the woman's neighbour came riding up on his bicycle. He asked "What was

Wetley Rocks, Staffs. December 9, 1976, 7.45 p.m.

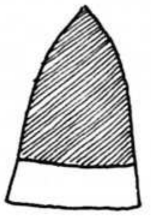


Dunkirk, Staffs. December 13, 1976. 5.20 p.m. Stages of departure, as drawn by the eyewitness





Kidsgrove Bank, Staffs. 5.20 p.m. December 13, 1976. Mrs. Dean's sighting.



Cheadle, Staffs. Darryl Smith sighting. December 28, 1976, 7.30 p.m.

it?" and proceeded to explain that he had just seen a huge orange object hovering in the sky. His description agreed very well.

Kidsgrove Bank

At almost exactly the same time, but a mile or so to the east at Kidsgrove Bank, a Mrs. Dean was also witness to something strange looming out of the fog. This object was in the North-North-East and again appeared to come very close to the witness. She described it as appearing something like an oyster shell, with a ribbed structure. The shell was grey, but a white beam was projecting from the top into the sky, and at the base were several rectangular window-like structures from which appeared to come flourescent white light, described as similar to light shining from a kitchen with this type of lighting.

The visibility was between 100 and 300 feet, but the object stood out clearly. It moved from behind an electricity sub-station and then just hovered for about two minutes. Mrs. Dean became very frightened and started to walk quickly down the road. As she did so she stumbled over something in the road. When she picked herself up and looked back the object had disappeared.

In neither instance was any sound reported.

Coincidences?

It is not known whether there is in fact any connection between these two events, or indeed the one from December 9th – but it is of significance perhaps to note the coincidence in description *and* the fact that all three incidents were connected in some way with an electricity pylon or sub-station. Indeed the series of coincidences stretch much further because on December 12 and 13, *1975* at *5.10 p.m.* there were several observations of an object which appears to be remarkably similar to the one observed almost a year *to the minute* later. These events chiefly occurred at Swinton in Greater Manchester (some forty miles to the north), and there was again a large number of independent witnesses. There was, however, one incident on those dates which agreed in description and time and came from Congleton, which is within the narrow area of the 1976 events.

Flap laps over into Cheshire

However, we are not finished with the coincidences just yet. On December 14, 1976, *again* at 5.15 p.m., a Mrs. Bebbington was driving through the town of Alsager, a few miles north of Dunkirk and just into the county of Cheshire. To the north east she saw a golden brown semicircular object hovering over some rooftops. It had a tiered series of lights inside it. The fog of the previous day had disappeared, but surrounding the base of the object was a greyish swirling vapour.

Very surprised by her observation Mrs. Bebbington swerved the car almost onto the pavement. She drove on past the object leaving it still hovering. She is a teacher, very similar in physical appearance to the lady from Dunkirk.

This seems to have marked the end of the initial phase of the flap. A good deal of radio and television publicity developed now as the local investigators began to realise what was happening and sought witnesses. Some of the subsequent reports, therefore, may have been generated by this publicity, and some were quite certainly identifiable as aircraft, etc. However, two incidents do stand out from the remainder, and deserve consideration.

Landing near Cheadle?

On December 28, 1976, 26-year-old Darryl Smith was driving his van towards his brother-in-law's house

at Cheadle. It was 7.30 p.m. on a cold, clear night. In the northern sky, he noticed a peculiar red light hovering over some woods. After driving on a little, wondering what it was, he stopped his van and wound down the window. He watched the object for several minutes as it moved north westwards. The object now split into two parts and these then re-joined. He now continued driving with the van window still wound down, keeping the UFO in sight. Altogether he was observing it for about eight minutes.

Upon arrival at the house he searched for some binoculars but could find none. He drove away again, about ten minutes after last viewing the object, and searched for it again. In the area of Shawe Park he saw it at much closer quarters, apparently descending into a field.

As a result of this closer view Mr. Smith was able to give a very precise description of the UFO. It was shaped something like a bullet standing on its end. At the top it was coloured deep red, and the bottom section, about one quarter the height, was white. The top was pointed. It came within about 100 yards of him, and seemed to be about six feet tall and four feet along the base.

The object appeared to have landed in the field, although Mr. Smith did not actually see it land. He tried two different vantage points in the area but its topography — sloping ground and tall hedges — made it impossible to see into the field. He immediately reported the incident to the police.

The police were in fact of great help to UFORA Staffordshire in their investigation of this case. They took the witness along to the scene in a car and promised the ufologists that if they found anything of note they would cordon off the area and call them in right away. Unfortunately there were no traces at the scene, but this kind of co-operation is to be commended.

Occupants seen at Bignall End

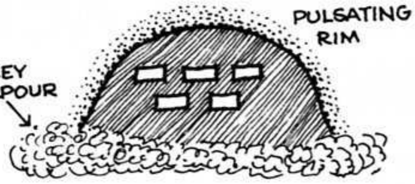
The final event saw the flap, and the year, out with a bang — quite literally!

On December 31, 1976, Mrs. Nellie Richardson, a 65-year-old lady, from Bignall End — a village which once more overlooks the Cheshire plains to the north west with about twelve miles of gentle, undulating land towards the town of Crewe, was awoken from her sleep by a loud bang. This sound was also confirmed by her neighbour, although she sleeps in a southwards-facing bedroom and did not *see* anything.

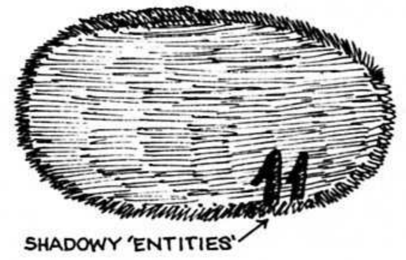
Mrs. Richardson got out of bed to see what was happening because a brilliant yellow glow was flooding into her bedroom. As she reached the window she saw that it came from a large oval object outside, hovering over the countryside.

Investigators were later to ascertain that it was on a bearing of 290° and at a low elevation of 10°. The interview was conducted some twelve hours after the sighting and it appears that there is likely to be a reasonable amount of accuracy about these figures. In size it was equivalent to a nine inch diameter dinner plate held at a distance of ten feet.

Mrs. Richardson wanted to know the time but her



Alsager, Cheshire. December 14, 1976. 5.15 p.m.



Bignall End, Staffs. December 31, 1976. 2.45 a.m.

alarm clock had stopped, so she went downstairs and confirmed that it was 02.45 a.m. She set her clock right and went back upstairs. The object had now moved slightly and was on a bearing of 320°, appearing much larger than the full moon, and filling one quarter of the window. It now seemed to be moving towards her and darkened to an orange colour.

She watched the object for well over an hour before it appeared to move away. At this point she says that two shadowy figures appeared to be silhouetted against the side of the object. They were like toy soldiers and were quite definitely moving about in front of it. They disappeared from view and the object continued to move away.

At about 4.15 a.m. her 31-year-old son John, who is an engineer, returned from a restaurant. He saw his mother very distressed, and was able to watch the object move away into the distance, glowing like a gas fire. He explained to her that he had seen it as he had driven home, looking like a glowing orange ball, and moving very slowly to the north west towards Crewe. He had been watching it for fifteen minutes.

There is one interesting footnote to this incident. The family cat was found on the downstairs window ledge staring out towards the object. The Richardsons attest that he is *never* disturbed during the night by anything.

No explanation for this report was found. Often in long-duration sightings of this type one suspects an astronomical solution, but there was nothing which could be of relevance here. The moon was not full and had in fact set *before* the incident began. On a TV programme about the sighting Dr. Ron Maddison of Keele University discussed possible explanations with Derek James, one of the investigators, and could offer none. Manchester Airport had no radar trackings, and there were no aircraft movements in the area. Cheshire police could also offer no solution.

Investigation of all these reports fell to the hands of the UFORA Staffordshire group, who did a fine job in evaluating and correlating them. Particular thanks are due to investigators Derek James, Chris Bourne and Tony Pace.

HUMANOID ACTIVITY IN EPPING FOREST

First report of a 10-year-old-case

D.J. Goring

Our contributor, journal editor of the Essex UFO Study Group, is also a member of the UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN)

THE occurrence took place some years ago, in 1967, but because of its bizarre nature the witnesses, who were then in their twenties, have requested anonymity.* I was first put in touch with them by Malcolm Jay early in 1976, and my interview with them was in February of that year.† I shall call them Mr. and Mrs. B. (then Miss S.).

At approximately 11.30 p.m. on a weekend day in August, 1967 (exact date not recalled), the witnesses (who were courting at the time) decided to stop the car in which they were travelling to have a chat and smoke cigarettes.

Mr. B. pulled off the minor road they were on and parked in a small area which faced a bridle path. Their location was some 12 feet (3.7 m.) from the edge of Bury Road, a minor road running north to south across Chingford Plain, Chingford, North London. The bridle path cuts its way through the lower reaches of Epping Forest. All the car's lights were switched off and the area was therefore pitch black. There was no background noise at all and the weather was dry.

They had been there only two or three minutes when they noticed a red light at the end of the bridle path. At first they thought it was the reflection of a cigarette in the windscreen (they were sitting in the front of the car all the time facing the end of the path). Upon moving their cigarettes around they soon saw that it wasn't anything to do with them – Mr. B. got out of the car at one stage to ascertain whether the windscreen was possibly distorting a reflection of the cigarettes. They realised then that there were two or three red lights at the end of the path (not literally the end, but about 150 yards (137 m.) away from them, where the path curves to the left). The lights appeared to be moving in and out from behind the trees.

Following this, something they could only describe as being like a firework went off, illuminating the trees around with a red-orange glow. Small red lights shot out of this "firework" to a height of some three feet (91 cm.) above the ground. On hitting the ground, these small red lights then bounced around for perhaps a quarter of a minute. Lit up by the red glare of the "firework" was a peculiar little man; Mr. B.'s estimate for his height was 18 inches (46 cm.).

The little man seemed to be just standing there, to the right of the "firework" and watching it. The best description Mr. B. could give was that of an extremely small figure with a little round head, two arms and dressed in a white mackintosh that came right down to the ground. No other details were visible (see sketch).

A short while after the first "firework" had died down, another, identical "firework" flared up a little distance to the left of the first, and another, identical dwarf was seen.

Up to now some seven minutes had elapsed since it all began. The "fireworks" had lasted some 30 seconds each and appeared most peculiar. They couldn't be sure if there were two dwarfs or just one who changed position. Weird though it all looked, they came to the conclusion that some *very* small children were letting off fireworks. Mr. B. then operated the headlamp flasher control of his car to see if he could illuminate them. The headlamps, however, were to no avail because the position of their car was such that the front dipped down lower than the rear due to a slight fall of the ground at the spot they had parked. This allowed the beams of light to go only about half way to their destined spot.

Suddenly, after three or four operations of this headlamp control, things took a new turn. A glowing bright white object caught their attention at the end of the bridle path. This object bobbled about and also moved from first the left side of the path to the right, and then back again but advancing towards the car at a brisk walking pace.

The object was some six to seven feet (1.83-2.13 m.) above the ground and it set the witnesses thinking that this was a man holding a lantern on a pole, approaching them with the intention of inquiring why they were there, etc. Mr. B. had the idea of letting the man (whom they couldn't see) come within 20 feet or so of the car and then to operate the flasher control and "catch him out"! They were in for a shock, however. On its final approach the light zeroed in on the car, a little to the nearside of the centre. The light, they both think, was larger in diameter than a car's headlight, very bright and white but not blinding as they could look directly at it. There was no definite edge to it, nor was there any detail to be seen.

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* The names of the witnesses are on file at FSR.

† [In December, 1975, Mr. B.'s brother, who is a friend of Malcolm Jay because of their metal-detecting interest, happened to mention to Malcolm that his brother had had an unusual sighting some years ago.]

At a distance of 10-15 feet (3.0-4.6 m.) Mr. B. flicked on the car's main beams. There was no one to be seen! The whole width of the path was lit up by the headlamps but the light was just hanging there unsupported.

They were quite shaken by this and Mr. B. quickly turned the ignition key in order to start the engine, back into Bury Road and drive away. The worst part was the fact that the engine would not start. The engine turned over with the starter motor but it wouldn't fire. This state of affairs lasted five, maybe ten, seconds with the starter motor turning over all the time. Five to ten seconds under those circumstances felt like an eternity, but the engine did finally fire. (This sluggishness of the car in starting was *not* usual, Mr. B. remarked.)

What happened to the light during this time was not known as all eyes were intently focused on the ignition key and switch on the dashboard. Upon selecting reverse gear and backing hastily out into the road, Mr. B. was just about to select first gear when a middle aged gentleman came running over to them from a house opposite.

"Have you seen that?" he asked.

Mr. B. replied, "Yes, we've just seen what looks like people letting off fireworks down there."

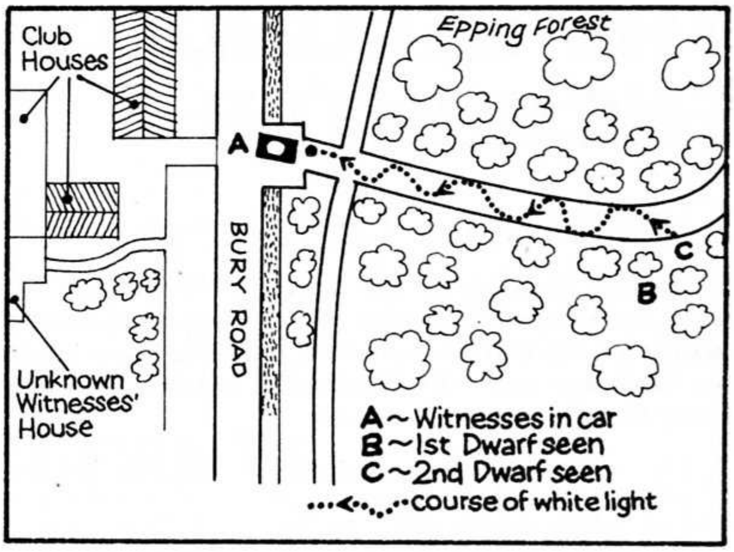
The gentleman said, "yes, it's been going on for a while and it's been frightening my wife and she's locked herself in her bedroom."

Mr. B. told him, "Well, I'd better call the police." The man agreed. So Mr. B. drove off down the road towards Chingford to do this. Mr. and Mrs. B. never did find out what happened to the light, although it is felt it must have returned to where it came from!

Upon turning right at the junction of Bury Road and Rangers Road, they shortly came across a stationary blue police patrol Rover car with two officers inside. Mr. B. stopped his car and told the officers that he had seen boys letting off fireworks in the forest which might set the forest on fire. (Naturally, he didn't tell them all he and Miss S. had seen.) So they all returned to the spot and Mr. B. drove up to and reversed into the driveway of the gentleman's house nearly opposite the bridle path, whilst the police car pulled over to the other side of the road. The police then searched the bridle path with hand torches but apparently found nothing (or so the witnesses think, as Miss S. did not want to hang around this peculiar area any longer than necessary. So without waiting for the police report they drove away).

Due to the fact that this story was only recently reported to me I found other witnesses impossible to trace. The middle aged gentleman and his wife had long since moved house – no one knows where to. The police officers are likewise untraceable. However, I think Mr. and Mrs. B. are the best witnesses and I found them to be good, honest people.

Mr. B. thought that the two little dwarfs sighted at the end of the bridle path were 18 inches (46 cm.) or so tall, and no more than 36 inches (91.). He estimated the distance to them from his car as being something like 75 yards (68.5 m.). As has been mentioned earlier, the real distance is double this so we can say they *were* about 36" (91 cm.) tall (the height of a child less than four years old). Besides being early in the year for fireworks, it was noticed that this sighting took place at a time when a very great concentration of UFOs were present on earth (the September 1967 flap). It has been said that there is no reason to link the "light" with the dwarfs, the two events being unconnected. I think that there *is* a tie-up but the question as to what Mr. B. and Miss S. interrupted that night may never be known. What were those red "fireworks"? Some experiment? The "light" – a remote controlled camera? It's anyones guess.



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THE SECOND CHILCOMB ENCOUNTER

Geoffrey G. Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE

Dr. Doel is President of the British UFO Research Association and for many years filled the post of Chairman of the Association with distinction. It is a pleasure to receive a contribution from him, as he has now retired from his work in Medicine. His interview with the Winchester witness was taped, and we are indebted to Jenny Randles for the transcript.

AS a sequel to the events of November 1976 Mrs. Bowles has claimed to have experienced a further encounter on December 30, 1976. The following is a recording of an interview with that lady...

Mrs. Bowles: A few yards along the road Ted said to me, "Look Joyce, there's that big glow in the sky again." I couldn't see it. Going on a few more yards, I spotted it bouncing in and out of the clouds.
G. G. Doel: Now when he said, 'There's that glow again,' did you think that he meant it was the same sort of glow that you saw when you had your previous sighting in the area?
B: Yes, but it was me who spotted the first incident – not Ted. No, I did not cotton on to it at the time because there was a car coming towards me with its headlights full on, and they were not dipped so it was awkward driving. After Ted said this I went on a few more yards. I say yards, but I'm no good at judging yards and things like that. I said "Oh Lord, there it is Ted," and the next thing that I can remember there was this whistling – like I got a high-pitched whistling in my ear – but this was in my car. Then the car started rocking – backwards and forwards and sideways.
D: Was this the sort of rocking it did during your previous sighting?
B: No, because when I had my previous sighting I can remember everything that happened, but with this incident my mind on some of the things is blank.
D: I see. Well what did happen?
B: The next thing I can remember was being in, one could say, a spacecraft thing. You might say: "How do you know it was a spacecraft?" – well fair enough. Well this chappie we saw in the first incident, who walked over to my car, well he was there.
D: Do you think your car was there with you in the spacecraft?
B: There is no question about it.
D: He was standing inside – with other people?
B: With another two people – two men. The other thing that I can remember is that I was stood next to one of these men – not the one who walked over to my car in the first incident. The other two were at an angle where there were some lights flashing on and off.
D: How many individuals were there in all?
B: Three. They were more or less dressed all the same – but there was only one of them that had a belt with what I would say was like a diamond in the middle. No doubt it was not a diamond, but that's the only way I can describe it.
D: A glistening, shiny jewel thing?
B: Yes – in the middle of his belt. He was touching it every so often. He put his hand on the stone (I will call it that). He looked across at one of the others and either said Mi-lee-ga or Mil-ee-ga. I am not sure, but it was something very similar. Then he said something in another language, which I did not understand, and then this man looked across at Ted and asked him to take seven strides – which he did. He was then asked what did he feel. I am not sure – it could be vice-versa. Ted either said it was hot at the end and cooler when he returned, or else it was the other way about. I am not sure. I was stood next to this man and he pointed over on what one could say was a wall, and there was like some transparent diagrams over on this wall and lines and different things. He said, "This is our field." Well Ted said "Fields", thinking it was like fields that we know here, and he said, "No, No, No, No, No. *OUR* fields". This man who was speaking was speaking in broken English, like a foreigner coming into this country trying to learn English. There were things that he did say that neither of us could understand.
D: Was it bright inside this room?
B: Oh yes, it was as big as this room we are in now.
D: That is about what size...12 feet by 12 feet?
B: It might have been a bit bigger. But I was a worried person when I was there. You see he had told me that they were not enemies. They had not come to invade. They were friends. My remarks to him were – and I was not afraid – I turned and looked at him and said "That's what Hitler said." He turned and said to me "You have a very strong tongue." Well then I did get a bit nervous because I thought, "Oh gosh, I've gone and said the wrong thing."

D: Their clothing was like on the previous occasion?
B: Their clothing was more or less the same, as I said before. Like boiler suits only there were no reveres. There were polo neck collars, high up to the neck. Only one of them so far as I could see – I was more interested in the one stood next to me because he kept looking at me up and down and I thought "what's going on?" He was dressed in silver. I will say bacofoil again. It was shiny and all in one piece. His hair was sandy and it looked more coarse than ours. But they were nice-looking people.
D: Were they clean shaven? Did they have beards?
B: No – the only one that had a beard was the one we had seen walking towards the car. The one that was stood near to me was clean shaven.
D: Do you think it could be the same man who walked towards your car on the previous occasion?
B: Well if it was not it was his twin. Ted said, "Why pick Joyce?" and he looked and Ted said, "Anything to do with the car?" The other one passed remarks, and we could not understand everything that he said. The only thing that we understood was that "The hand was put on the roof of the car."
D: Yes I remember that from previous testimony. (The entity had put his hand on the car roof as he peered in—JR). Did they talk amongst themselves much?
B: They did not talk much, and what they did say we could not understand – not all of it – because it was in a different language.

D: Are they likely to come again do you think?
B: They told me that they would be back.
D: They did not say when?
B: No – not to my knowledge. They were doing signs, but I could not understand them. There was a big thing in the centre of the room, or whatever it was, and it was (covered with) very much like the horoscope symbols. It was not horoscope symbols – but very much like them. Some kind of symbols, I cannot tell you what they were. I did not understand them.
D: Then what happened?
B: After he had finished – and he talked to Ted, a lot of which Ted could not understand. The next thing that Ted and I remember was like a searchlight – a long white flash. It went from the back of my car through my windscreen. The next thing we can remember was that we were by a big river, and we saw lights but they were car lights. Then we had to find our way back into Winchester, and if you were to say that you would give me £10.000 to take you to that river I could not do it.
D: Where was it near?
B: I don't know. We kept driving around and we conjured up that it was near Chilworth – near Southampton Avenue. Once I was there I found my way home.

* * * * *

Note that the time of first contact was about 6.30 p.m., and the pair returned home at about 8.15 p.m. There would appear to be a time lapse of more than an hour.

UFO LANDS AND OCCUPANTS SEEN IN VENEZUELA

Mike da Silva

Our contributor is FSR representative in Venezuela

HERE is this morning's news as I hasten to write the following lines from Caracas on January 24, 1977.

The resultant summary pertains to various reports on the same sighting, all appearing in *El Nacional*, *El Universal* and *Ultimas Noticias* of today's date. I won't translate each report but would rather make a summary of the substance of each:

The incident took place near the village of Santa Rosa to the east of Barquisimeto, capital of the state of Lara, Venezuela.

At about 00.30 Sunday 23rd January, 1977, the residents of Santa Rosa, (some were awakened by a penetrating sound and bright light), observed a UFO as it circled above the village and eventually came to rest on the bank of the river Turbio. It is reported that as the object descended it almost collided with the roof of a dwelling house. It emitted an array of multicoloured lights and caused panic. As the object landed, figures similar to humans could be seen moving around slowly and in robot-like fashion within the "ship."

A crowd of people decided to investigate, and armed with flashlights, began to close in on the landing site. However, the object took off before they could have come within proximity of it.

A youngster who reached the landing site suffered burns on his hands as he apparently touched the ground where the object was. According to witnesses. marks were left in the ground by the landing gear. A greasy granular material was also left on the ground after the UFO had left. A journalist from the Barquisimeto newspaper *El Informador* collected samples of the material which he will take to the Polytechnic Institute for analysis. The journalist, Mario Daboin, will be accompanied by the director of *El Informador* Dr. Anselmo Reyes, as he hands over the material for analysis.

The "ship" was described as ovalloid, but no approximate dimensions were given. It remained grounded for 5 minutes.

* * * * *

Apart from the reports one can find quite frequently in the local press, there are many sightings which are not reported to the authority or given to the news media. I know of many people who have had an experience, but due to their professional status decline to talk about it. Actually the UFO activity in Venezuela seems to be heading for a peak.

Many people who live in mountainous and sparsely populated areas, such as the Venezuelan border with Colombia, report seeing these objects and/or lights as frequently as 4 to 5 times a week. They have become so used to them that they cease to impress them.

Most of these people who live in these areas are campesinos, with little or no education, and obviously do not read FSR or any other material on the subject, but if you should ask one of them his opinion as to what he thinks the lights could be, he'll tell you with a dismissing wave of the hand... "Space people – they're always around – come and go as they please – you don't have to worry about them – it's nothing new."

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

UFO, OCCUPANTS AND SEX IN COLOMBIA

Was this another A.V.B.-type close encounter case in South America?

Gordon Creighton

WE are much indebted to Sr. Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla, in Spain, for forwarding to the Editor a photostat copy of an article which was published, with many photographic illustrations, in the magazine *Vea* in Bogota, Colombia (issue No. 270/271 of December, 1976). I have translated the article and present the main parts of the text interspersed with short paraphrased sections, with a personal commentary as a conclusion.

The story concerns a cowman named Liberato Anibal Quintero, employed on a farm near El Banco in the province of Magdalena in the northern part of the South American republic of Colombia. A cowman who, as he admits, has suffered a decidedly sharp jolt in the even tenor of his tranquil peasant existence.

One evening (the report does not give the date) Liberato arrived home from work. He has a wife and three small children, and lives in a house on the estate where he tends a herd of some 40 cattle. He walked in, took off his sandals, and threw himself down on the new hammock that his wife – she rejoices in the splendid name of Brunilda, (*Brunhild*) – had recently brought back from a shopping trip in la Guajira. Soon he was fast asleep, and snoring loudly – which, as his wife subsequently told the press, was the first odd thing she noticed about him that night, inasmuch as he normally never snored at all.

She lay awake for some time watching him, and unable to sleep. Then a thunderstorm broke, with much thunder and lightning, and this woke Liberato up. By then, Brunilda, having given her smallest child his last breast-feed, had dropped off to sleep herself.

Liberato felt "queer...As though something odd was going to happen to me." He felt he absolutely had to get up out of the hammock. He was nervous and sweating, and realised that his own movements and sensations were not quite normal. He crossed himself, recited a Paternoster, and dashed out of the house.

It was now two years since he had taken this job as cow-hand on the farm known as *La Vida Tranquila* ("The Tranquil Life"). Little did he realise that he was in for anything but a tranquil life that night. (His own first name, *Liberato*, or "Liberated" is ironical enough too, for he was about to find himself involved in a scene that might be thought fully up to the standard of what passes for "liberated" among the more trendy circles of our times.)

Outside all was normal and quiet. The heavy rain had stopped and stars were beginning to appear in breaks in the clouds. Liberato found himself walking towards the cowsheds, which were some considerable distance from his house. But he felt there was something "heavy" and "difficult" about his movements. He proceeded slowly forwards, feeling himself, as it were, "controlled by some inexplicable external force."

Coming to the brook that cuts across the farm at this point, he stopped and washed his face. The time was now about half an hour past midnight.

Just before reaching the cowsheds he became aware of a vivid beam of light which lit up the sky and, instinctively, he threw himself down on to the ground. The light drew steadily closer. He tried to get up, but his legs gave way under him. At last he managed to crawl into some bushes and secrete himself in a hollow from which he hoped he could observe without being seen.

The egg-shaped craft

As Liberato described it later, "Everything seemed strange. At first I thought I must be dreaming, but soon I realised that none of it was hallucination, but all real enough. A big luminous craft, shaped like a hen's egg, was slowly descending from the sky, vividly lighting up the whole area all around. And it changed the temperature. Because just previously, after the heavy rainstorm, it had been quite cool, And now suddenly it was like an inferno – an absolutely unbearable heat."

Terrified, he continued to watch as the strange craft touched down close by the cowsheds, its light now so vivid that it dazzled and blinded him. For a few seconds there was a dead silence. Then came a heavy metallic noise, as a small ladder appeared on the side of the craft and came down towards the ground.

Liberato continued: "I was by now more scared than ever. I wanted to run for it, but that was impossible. I was simply nailed to the spot. However much I wanted to bolt, I simply couldn't do it. I tell you, I swear to God, my fear was so great that I couldn't move from the spot.

"At one point I felt I was about to swoon, but then I felt a new access of strength and just sat there where I was. But I nearly let out a yell when I saw a number of people coming down out of the machine, carrying what looked like lights or torches in their hands."

Short beings

"I recall very clearly how they looked. They were, as I calculate it, less than 1½ metres in height. They were white-skinned, with flattened faces, very high cheek-bones, quite thick eyebrows, and round protruding eyes. I don't think they had either eyelids or eyelashes. There were also three women, with long hair, who came down out of the machine after the men. They all seemed very much impressed, and were looking about them on all sides."

Liberato seemed fatigued as he described it all later to the magazine representative, and had to pause from time to time in his account. He looked pale, and asked for a short respite so as to refresh himself. Brunilda brought him a glass of water. He drank half of it, and then went on:

"I was still unable to move. I was terrified as I watched those little men and women, and remained where I was. But then suddenly one of them was there, right beside me. I tried to make a dash for it, but they caught me immediately. Those little folk were a lot more nimble than I am, or any of you. They caught me by the hand and it felt as though my hand was burning. Then, with a mighty effort, and using my fists, I knocked at least four or five of them down, but they were too many for me, and my strength was soon exhausted.

"Then suddenly they seized hold of me in the area of the spinal column and that was the end so far as any resistance by me was concerned. From then onwards they had me completely under their control. I lost consciousness at that point, and when I came to my senses again, after I don't know how long a lapse of time, I found myself inside a room with extraordinary lights..."

Inside the craft

"My right arm felt very painful, and I could see on it, quite plainly, a mark something like the mark left by the needle when you have an injection. I think they had taken blood from me. And a great deal of blood too, for I have been having fearful headaches ever since.

"As soon as I recovered consciousness my whole body felt racked with dreadful pain, just as though they had given me a tremendous thrashing. But even greater was my astonishment when I found three of those women at my side, giving me a sort of massage on the back and trying — so it appeared — to relieve my pain.

"When I felt them caressing me like this, I was astounded. But what amazed me most of all was that the women massaging me were completely naked and in an inviting and provocative posture, clearly ready for anything. I admit I am very fond of women, but I swear to you that at that moment I just didn't know what to do. I started to take a good close look at her. She seemed very nice. Her breasts were well formed and not very large. I attempted to kiss them, and she offered no objection. After that, everything was dead easy. She was completely naked, and so was I. I went on kissing her, from the breasts downwards, and I noticed that she had no navel. I became very excited and took her. She seemed absolutely insatiable, very, very ardent... She was extremely hairy, her legs were very short, seeing that she herself was so short, but her legs were very well made all the same, given her size. Her skin was very soft, and her hips were nice, very nice.

"I don't know how long I stayed with her. But when I had had enough and wanted to break it off and go home, she held me back. I felt just like a pinioned child, and my fear now began to be greater than ever before, even greater than at the outset. This woman, whom I had held in my arms a few seconds before, now emitted a series of noises like the barking of a dog, and she was answered with barks from other beings elsewhere in the craft.

"I was exhausted by now. But suddenly two more women made for me and gave me a strange yellowish stuff to drink, and this completely restored my vigour. How long a time had elapsed by then, I have absolutely no idea.

"The first woman had left me utterly exhausted. But the most amazing part of it was the drink they gave me, which restored me physically as though nothing had happened! I reckon the whole affair with the three of them must have lasted at least three hours. All I can remember now is that after I had had the first woman everything went black around me. And then suddenly I felt the prick of the injection again. But this time it was not in my right arm but in my back, in the area where they had been caressing me so much."

Thrown out in the field

"I awoke again finally to find myself lying on the grass. Dawn was just breaking. With vast difficulty I managed to get to my feet and make a dash for home to tell my wife and finally my workmates all about what had happened to me. My mates armed themselves and went back to the spot where I had fallen into the hands of strange beings. But there was nobody there. Nothing, except just a vast silence. All there was to be seen at the spot was the marks left in the ground by the machine out of which those women came — those women who, weird as they

were, have left me with some disturbing memories. Every time I think about it, I get a ringing in the head."

Brunhild speaks

Brunilda Aguirre, Liberato's wife, was described by the newspaper as of frail physique (decidedly unbefitting for such a name!) and of a decidedly uncommunicating nature. She was, however, now said to be more peevish than ever. Questioned as to how she felt, she said:

"Well, I've got my reasons. I'm not jealous, but after all, who would like to have to do what my husband was forced to do? I don't know why those bitches should have picked on my husband who, up till now, had never been unfaithful to me, though he's fond enough of the women. My husband means absolutely everything to me and I can't do without him. As a matter of fact, on the night when it happened I had noticed that he was already acting very strangely. And especially when he came back home from work and took off his shoes and lay down on the hammock. Normally he never snores. But that day he snored... and how. I never used to put faith in all that talk about men and women from other planets, but now I've got to believe it, in view of what has happened to my husband. And there's another thing too. I myself have seen a strange machine, just like my husband described it, flying about around here these last few days. Let's hope to God anyway that they don't come back again for Liberato. Because if they did come back, I think it would just be the end of me, for they'd leave him completely sterile! We've already got some children of course, but all the same it would be a terrible state of affairs.

As for me myself, well, I don't think I would be capable of doing what my husband did. I'd sooner be killed than subject myself like that to someone you don't even know. *And from another planet too! No – that wouldn't be decent! That would be too much!*"

What the owner of the farm thinks

The owner of the *Vida Tranquila* farm, a lawyer named Miguel Antonio Pina Vega, was gravely concerned when he heard the strange adventure related by his cowman, and promptly arranged for him to be given a thorough medical examination by a doctor.

Asked by the journalist to comment on the case, the lawyer spoke as follows:

"I have around twenty hired hands on the farm, and Liberato Anibal Quintero is a man whom I consider to be totally trustworthy. He is a serious hardworking fellow, who drinks very little. He has no vices, like narcotics or that sort of thing, and indeed he doesn't even smoke cigarettes."

He reckons Liberato to be one of the most efficient of the workers on his farm: "One of the best men I've ever had. I've never had any sort of trouble with him, nor do I expect to have any after the statements he has just made. But, there is no doubt about it, it certainly does come as a shock to you when you hear a story like this. I was told about it that same morning, when I went across to collect the day's milk. My first thought was that it must be some sort of sick joke, but later I was able to see that Liberato was clearly telling the truth and I felt his story was even further confirmed when the doctor, by whom I had him examined, told me that the whole thing is quite possible and that Liberato Anibal Quintero is perfectly normal, so that any possibility that he might be suffering from some sort of hallucination is absolutely ruled out."

The doctor's findings

The local doctor, Dr. Manuel Villanueva Amaris, was one of the few people who do not find the cowman's story in any way astonishing.

He carried out a medical check-up on Liberato, at the request of the owner of the farm, Sr. Pina Vega. His statement, as given in the press account, is as follows:

"Nothing in the man's story surprises me in the least. I myself have had the opportunity to read a whole lot of descriptions lately, given by perfectly serious folk – for example one of them was an Argentinian doctor – regarding the presence of extraterrestrial beings amongst us, and I have also seen many further cases described in the newspapers and in magazines and journals. As regards the examination which I made of Liberato Quintero, everything that I found bears out his story, inasmuch as he is in perfectly normal health. His neurological condition and his responses, as well as all the tests I carried out on him, have yielded entirely satisfactory results."

Dr. Villanueva emphasised that he finds the cowman's story in no way improbable, and went on:

"I certainly am not one of those who will criticize him. These are questions that we have got to think about very carefully and they must be the subject of profound study, inasmuch as mankind has in fact been attempting to ascertain whether or not there are living beings on other planets, and there has been abundant evidence that this is so, as we can see from these many cases which are now becoming everyday happenings, proving that such beings do indeed exist, and that they have been coming here and visiting us.

"I personally would like very much to have such an experience as the peasant Liberato Quintero has had. But when you want it, it doesn't happen to you. A great pity! It could be a really nice experience!"

That is the end of the extract from the Colombian magazine.

* * * * *

For those who will get excited about such things, the similarities between this case and that of Antonio Villas Boas (A.V.B.) are numerous and striking enough. (For example the general description of the shape of the craft; the metal ladder let down; the size of the entities; their white skin, their high cheek bones; their "barking speech"; their taking of blood from their victim; and the bright illumination within thw UFO.) However, there are also dissimilarities. Thus, the "women" here described are said to have protruding eyes and to be very hairy, whereas A.V.B.

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said that his little piece of homework had slit, *Chinese*-type eyes which were *blue*, and his account shows that she was certainly not hirsute.

In any case, many of the more thoughtful students of our subject are nowadays beginning to realise that all our ideas about the existence of a whole plethora of different types of UFO creatures are probably fanciful and nonsensical. It is highly likely that nobody of our species is yet in a position to say for sure what any of these creatures of the demon kingdoms really look like. Those who have read the account (FSR Vol.21, No.2) of the investigation of Peter, the young man whose car was seemingly teleported by a UFO in 1974 over part of the route from Rhodesia to South Africa, will recall the replies that Peter gave when he was asked, under hypnosis, what the entities looked like (remember, Peter was in a very deep trance):

> *"They looked how I wanted them to look. They looked like a duck, then it looked like a duck; if it looked like a monster, then it looked like a monster." (sic)*

It is already widely realised that the endless cataloguing of lights in the sky – and maybe even of UFOs on the ground – is in all probability totally useless. And, if this revelation by Peter is correct, then it looks as though we are also wasting our time utterly when we make our frantic attempts to compile lists of various differing categories of "UFO entities." (I regret to have to admit that probably nobody has spent more time on this sort of exercise than myself.) For it is still very possible that *only one kind of creature is responsible for the whole gamut of parapsychological and paraphysical phenomena which we at present choose arbitrarily to pigeonhole in separate compartments with neat labels like "Ufology" and "Spiritualism" and "Fairy Lore," etc., etc.*

Our good cowman assumed of course that he was being entertained by "extraterrestrial" ladies, because this idea of "extraterrestrial visitors" and "Space Travel" and the like is the latest fashionable gimmick, almost certainly fed into the human mind by these creatures themselves, who are evidently past masters at leading us by the nose.

For myself, I can only say that I see nothing whatsoever in the cowman's story that proves – or indeed that even suggests – that his lascivious little playmates hailed from the Pleiades or from "Christofix" or from points beyond. I suggest that what we have here is simply one more manifestation of the activities of a demonic population which shares this planet with us – and possibly always has done.

Hints of precisely similar experiences may be found running right through the whole vast literature of "Fairy Lore," in which tales of "fairy lovers" abound. (See, for handy reference, Dr. Jacques Vallée's excellent introduction to these ideas, *Passport to Magonia*.)

Where I think that accounts such as those of A.V.B. and of the cowman are admittedly rather different from the conventional "fairy-lover" tales of the past is in their very much greater frankness as regards the details. I suspect that many of our old tales of "fair-lovers" would also have been a lot more explicit had they been gathered and published in what is so quaintly described as a "permissive" age, like the present, instead of in the more prudish times of, say, the 19th century, when so much of the fairy lore was issued in published form.

One final point. Someone is bound to come up at once with the neat and sensible explanation that our Colombian cowman simply made it all up, *having already read the A.V.B. story*. This I do not believe for one moment. In the first place, South America is vast and it is a mighty far cry from A.V.B.'s home village in South-West Brazil to the cowman's home near Panama and the Gulf of Darien. While we do know that the A.V.B. story actually appeared *in Spanish* earlier than in Portuguese (namely in an Argentinian edition of a Brazilian magazine) we do not know that it was ever published in Colombia. While Argentina and Colombia both have Spanish as their languages, they live at opposite ends of the enormous South American Continent.

In the second place, the magazine article about the Colombian cowman is illustrated with six or seven photographs which show the cowman and his wife and children. These photographs indicate that they are very poor, underprivileged sort of folk, dwelling in quite primitive conditions. We are not told whether Liberato is literate or not, but, on the basis of my knowledge of South America I would be prepared to bet that, unlike A.V.B., who had had a little schooling, and was attending night-classes in literacy, the cowman may well be totally illiterate and his humble home may well not contain a single book.

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ENCOUNTER ON DAPPLE GRAY LANE: Part I

Ann Druffel

OVER the past few years, ufologists have become blase about reports of alien humanoids, occurring in all shapes, sizes and colours. The encounter on Dapple Gray Lane in Palos Verdes, a fashionable coastal community in Southern California, however, might stretch credulity to the limit.

This report nevertheless comes from two sober and intelligent young men, well educated and gainfully employed. The case also contains three unique factors: 1. The primary witness is himself a UFO investigator, having researched cases for a major U.S. UFO organization; 2. Some of the entities or "occupants" involved were of non-humanoid appearance; 3. The experience, in part, seemed to be a "projection" or advanced hologram.

We shall call the primary witness John Hodges to preserve his anonymity.† He first became acquainted with the author when he became aware of her long-standing interest in UFO phenomena above and in the Santa Catalina Channel. This body of water lies between the coastline of Southern California and Santa Catalina Island, twenty miles offshore to the southwest (Figure 1). The area has for at least thirty years been the scene of UFO reports of all kinds – surface sightings of hazy craft which cruise leisurely in full view of military installations, aerial spheres bobbing in oscillating flight, gigantic cloud-cigars, and at least one report of an underwater UFO with uniformed occupants. However, the Dapple Gray encounter is possibly the first land sighting of occupants around this area.

John Hodges, aged twenty-nine, lives four miles inland from the coast and often visits beach areas overlooking the Channel. He contacted the author in March 1976 regarding sightings he and friends had made of Channel phenomena. His accounts seemed reasonable and valuable. After about two hours of interview, Hodges seemed to gain confidence in the author. He ventured a most unusual report concerning an encounter with what he termed "two extraterrestrial beings."

Dapple Gray Lane, where this encounter occurred, is a pleasant tree-lined road, somewhat isolated and about three miles from the coast. About 2.00 a.m. on a clear, cool night early in the 1970s, Hodges and a friend, Pete Rodriguez (pseudonym), confronted two strange creatures in the road. They were about six feet from the witnesses' stationary car, illuminated in their headlights. To the young men's conscious memory, the fright and consternation they experienced at the inexplicable sight overwhelmed them. After staring a few seconds at the odd little entities, they manoeuvred the car around the area where the creatures stood and

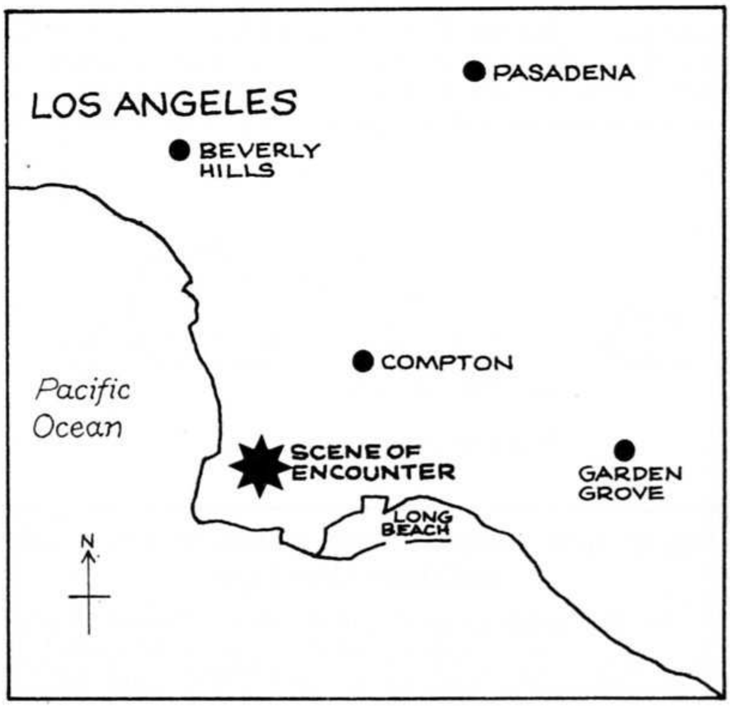


Fig. 1: Part of Southern California

tore off down the darkened street toward home.

In Hodges' own words, here is his conscious memory.[1] "Something blocked me. I don't even remember the year. My buddy Pete and I had a friend who was a big wheel at the Institute of General Psionics. He was always trying to get me to join. It was like a parapsychological church. Mike and I went to his studio apartment and were rapping with him till the wee hours of the morning, not especially about parapsychological phenomena, but mostly about girls.

"About 2.00 a.m. Pete and I decided we'd split. Our car was parked facing south on the deadend street. We walked up the path, out the driveway and north along the road to the car. We could see where we were going – no problem. We got in the car, turned on the lights and directly ahead of us were two 'extraterrestrial beings.'

"Pete only remembers the larger one to the right, but I remember both of them. One was about the size of the trunk of a human body, and the other the size of an overgrown softball. They were both the shape of brains with the dura matter still intact – kind of a filmy bluish. On the larger one was something red. It resembled a hematoma, or a rupture, or

† Name and address on file – EDITOR.

a pumping device. It could have been anything. I don't know." (See Figures 2 and 3.)

Hodges remembered taking Pete home, a five minute drive, and then driving home himself, another five minutes. As he entered his home, he noted the time was about 4.30 a.m. It was not until a couple of years later that Hodges realized this incongruity. About two hours were missing from his life.

The day after the encounter, Hodges and Rodriguez called up the friend whom they had visited that night and confirmed that there was nothing in Dapple Gray Lane which could account for the sighting – no large rocks, dead animals, or trash. They returned to the spot seeking information,

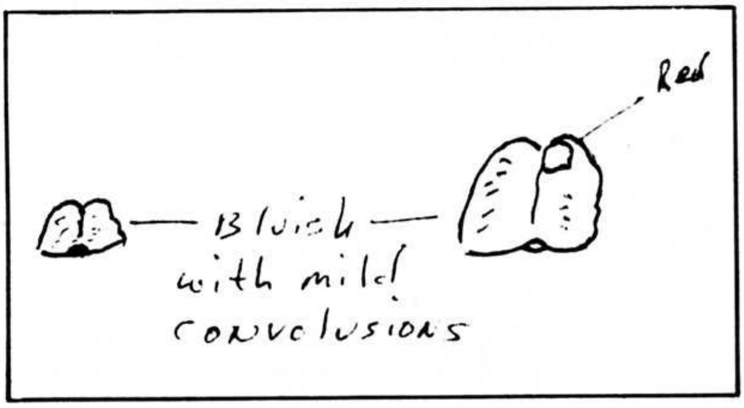


Fig. 2: John Hodges' sketch of two entities in road on Dapple Gray Lane

As the years passed, the memory remained alive but muted in Hodges' mind – even less vivid in Rodriguez.' The experience had been eerie and illogical; they tried to forget.

Intrigued by Hodges' straightforward statement and by the possibility that this could be a time-lapse case, the author arranged for him to be hyp-

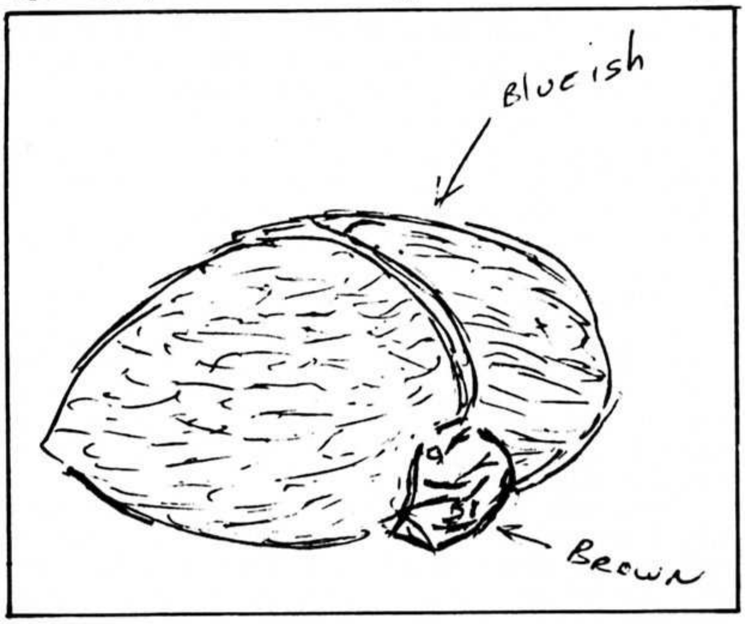


Fig. 3: Hodges' sketch of 'brain' entity in room, drawn immediately after hypnosis session (April 14, 1976). Writes Mr. Hodges: "Brown spot suggests patula oblongata in opposite position in relation to Brain as it faced me."

notically regressed by William McCall, M.D., a practising physician whose speciality is family practice. Dr. McCall is an expert clinical hypnotist, as well, who uses the technique to aid patients whose medical symptoms are complicated by underlying emotional disturbance.

At the hypnosis session, conducted April 14, 1976, Hodges at first described the encounter with the alien creatures in much the same way as his conscious-memory statement.[2]

"I see two objects. One is large and the other small. They're kind of bluish. They look like brains. Pete's quiet. I look at him. I say, 'Do you see what I see?' He says, 'I think so.' And I say, 'Are they brains?' He says, 'Yes.' And then something... something happens. I'm having trouble remembering..."

To relieve Hodges' evident discomfort as his subconscious memory took hold, McCall took him back to shortly before the sighting, and determined that the exact date of the experience was August 17, 1971. "We'll get back to those objects," McCall stated then. "Something is happening."

"Yes," continued Hodges. "The larger one is coming toward us. We're sitting in the car. It is talking to us, not with words, but with something in our mind...telling us we must be careful, that there are many things we do not understand. If we do not take the time to understand ourselves, we will be the instruments of our own fate...that there are many like us and we will come to know our place in the world. Then the larger one moves back and says, 'We will meet again. Until that time you will not remember what has gone on here.' "

"Why doesn't he want you to remember it?" commented McCall.

"He didn't say. I don't know. I take Pete home. He seems OK. I am still puzzled. I drive home and am sitting in my car. I have a dream...I am back on that hill, talking to the larger one and ask him, 'Why is it me? Why do you come to me?' And somehow I am enveloped by...I don't know...and taken to some kind of large room. There are people there... but they're *not* like people. (Figure 4.)

"It seems to be real, but I say to myself, 'I must be dreaming.' The brain is there. He tells me these are people who monitor my world because there's too much power. He shows me all the different parts of the world like on a large television screen... it looks like we are travelling above the earth. On the screen are pinpoints of light on the earth, and the 'brain' says these are places where we could destroy ourselves – places in California, in the Midwest, all over America... in Europe, in Russia and other places I don't know...even places in the ocean."

MC: What 'power' is he talking about?

JH: The power...the installations...the places where they have atomic bombs. They look like exploding atomic bombs on the screen. Some on the ocean, on deserts, on ice (Figures 5 and 6).

MC: Are all these pictures on earth?

JH: There is one picture of a planet. I don't know where it's at. It is totally destroyed. He says this was caused by too much power.

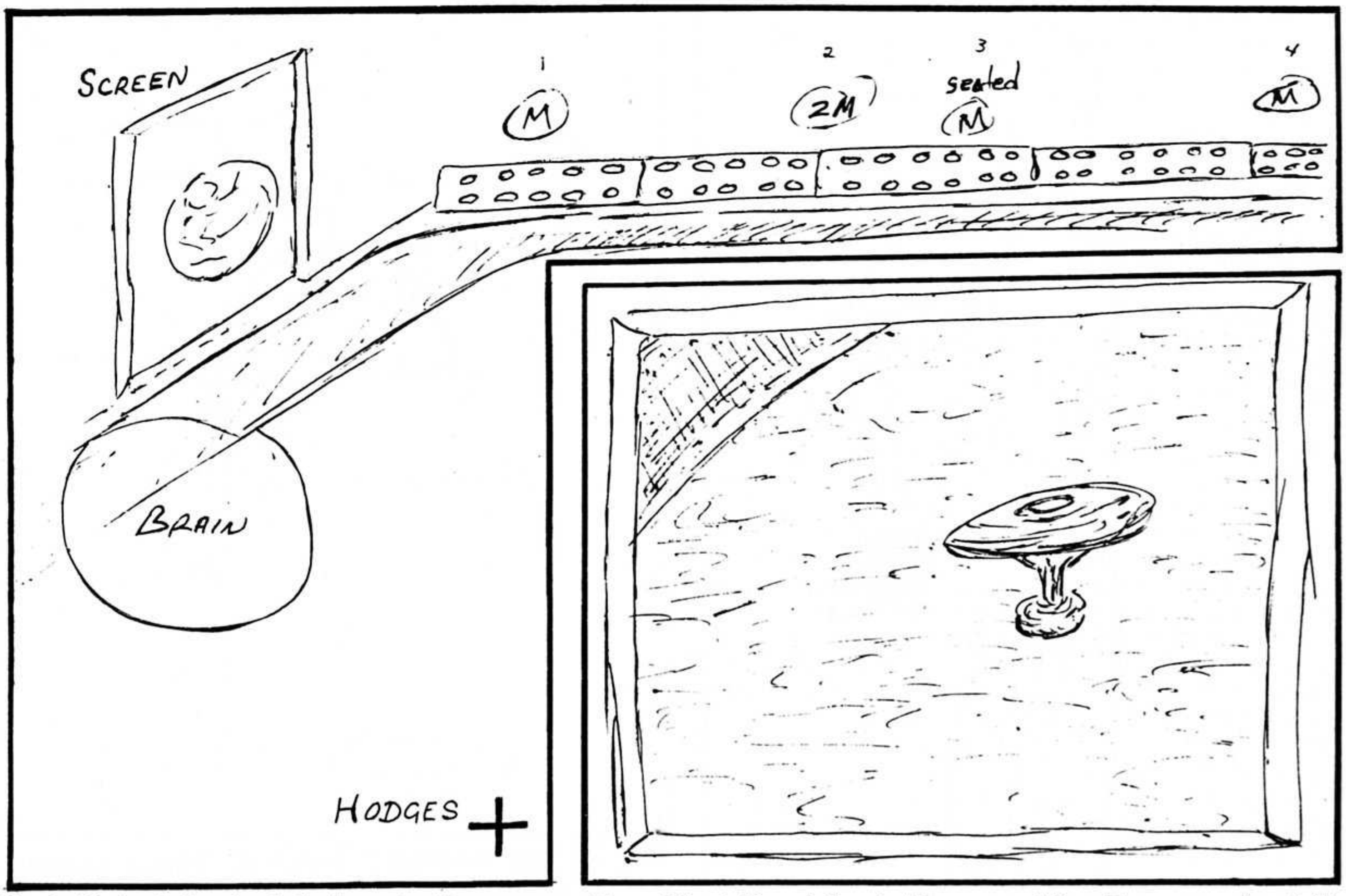


Fig. 4: Hodges' sketch of the 'room' with screen, position of 'brain' in relation to his own position. Room was of metallic silver, floor brown. 7 or 8 men. Varicoloured lights on panels. Screen was about 4 ft square, up to 7 ft away from him

Fig 5 (right): The screen in operation, depicts ocean scene, with bomb. Sketch by J. Hodges on April 14, 1976, as also was sketch in Figure 4

MC: What is the date this dead planet occurred?

JH: It's now.

MC: Do you mean 1976?

JH: No. It's 1971.

MC: Now, you're in this room...how do you feel?

JH: I'm puzzled. I'm...I'm not frightened.

MC: How does the 'brain's' message come into your mind?

JH: I can hear him. He doesn't have a mouth, but he has a voice. It's English...must be English, because I can understand it. No accent. It sounds like a man. I can hear him in my mind. The voice...comes within me, but it sounds like you are talking to me. He floats, seems to be eye level with me, has no arms or legs. He's just a ... 'brain.'

Dr. McCall then instructed Hodges to concentrate on the brain's red spot. Hodges replied that he did not see it on him now, that maybe this 'brain' in the 'room' was not the same one on the road, though it was the same size as the one he had seen on Dapple Gray Lane. McCall took him back to the encounter on the road, instructed him to 'freeze' the larger entity as it came close to the windshield and to describe the red spot. Hodges did so.

"The red spot seems to be covering about one-eighth of the brain. It's pure red, doesn't shine, looks almost like a light. It looks like it might be a growth. It doesn't have an even line. I can't see the texture; there doesn't appear to be any depth to it. Doesn't move, doesn't pulsate, nothing like blood vessels around it, only the soft tissue covering the brain."

Regarding the other entities in the room, Hodges stated, "They are tall, skin grey...yellow eyes, very thin eyes...mouths but no lips. Funny flat noses.

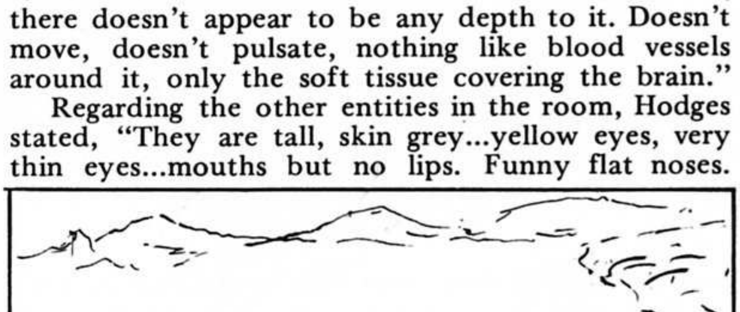


Fig. 6: The screen depicts Desert scene with explosion, which, says Hodges, had a 3-D effect

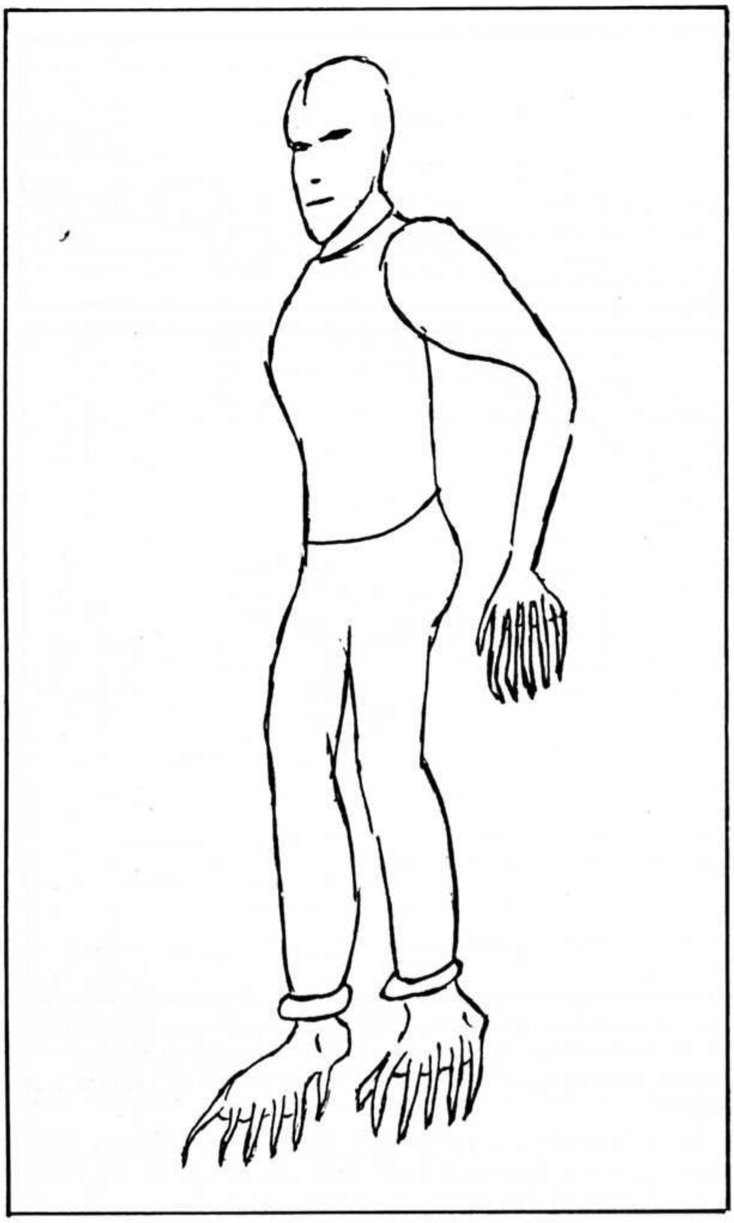


Fig. 7: Hodges' sketch of 'crewman', one of several humanoid entities in 'room'. Sketch made immediately following hypnosis session. Eyes, yellow; body covering, grey; ankle-rolls, blue-grey; all skin, grey

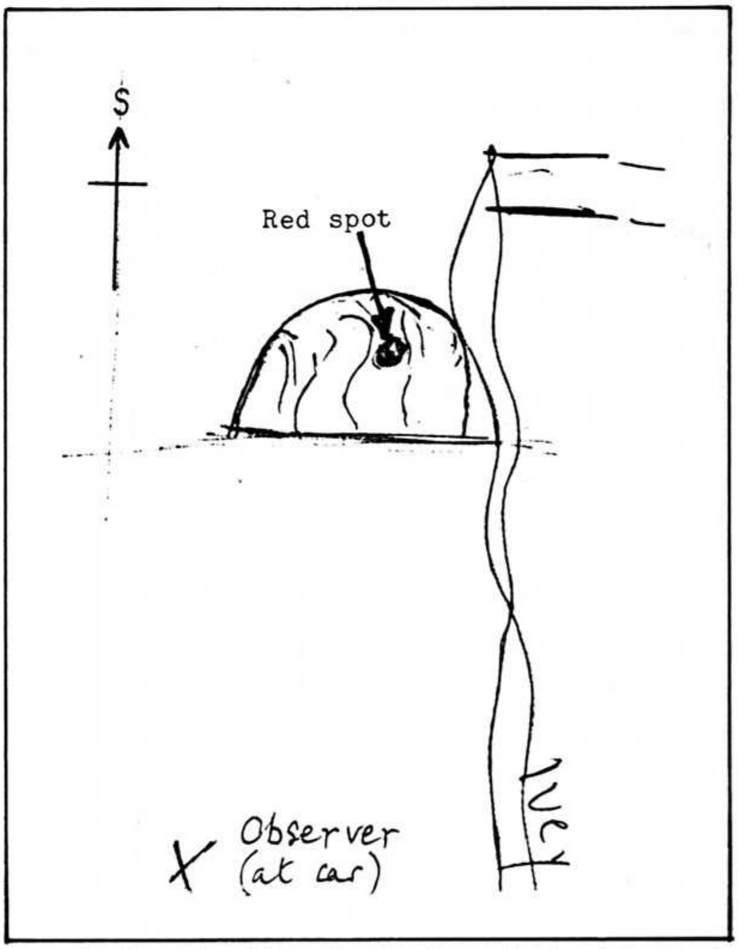


Fig. 8: Pete Rodriguez' sketch of 'object' in road, positioned in relation to car, roadside.

Their hands have long, thin fingers, six fingers, and a thumb. They're webbed more or less from the palm to the first knuckle. Their feet are much the same. They're barefoot but not naked, wearing grey vests and grey pants, looks like a kind of plastic or vinyl, with a spongy cuff...something like a doughnut around their ankle. No belt, but a line seems to separate the pants from the vest. They're about seven feet tall." (See Figure 7).

MC: What is their relationship to the brain?

JH: I don't know. They seem to be crewmen, doing specific functions. It looks like they're working on some type of continuous computer board...

The abrupt end of Hodges' experience in the room was shortly after his second reference to seeing the "dead plant" on the screen.

JH: He (brain) tells me to stand in this one spot... something envelops me again, and I'm sitting back in my car. Not instantaneously...I seem to feel a kind of buzzing and everything was black. Then I'm buzzing again. *Then* I'm sitting in my car."

John Hodges seems to be an honest and intelligent individual. This impression was confirmed by Dr. McCall. Hodges attended a Catholic boys' high school in Southern California. He was unhappy there because he was placed in a group of "public school rejects" while his brother was placed with "the best of the Catholic crop" in the same school. In 1965 pressures at school resulted in a brief nervous breakdown. He now considers himself "Christian," having given up practice of the Catholic faith. He regards his life at present as "happy."

His brother is presently studying law. Hodges attended one year of college but was dissatisfied and dropped out. He continued studying on his own, primarily scientific subjects. He took IBM training and obtained certification as a keypunch operator but was disinterested in this field. For the past six years he has been employed in "parapolice" work (security guard and similar positions) and received standardized training, including special courses in chemical warfare and small arms. He has made attempts to get on a regular police force, but his eyes are far beyond the accepted standard. His vision is fully corrected by glasses.

Hodges is a chain smoker and admits being unable to quit. He was nervous about revealing his encounter

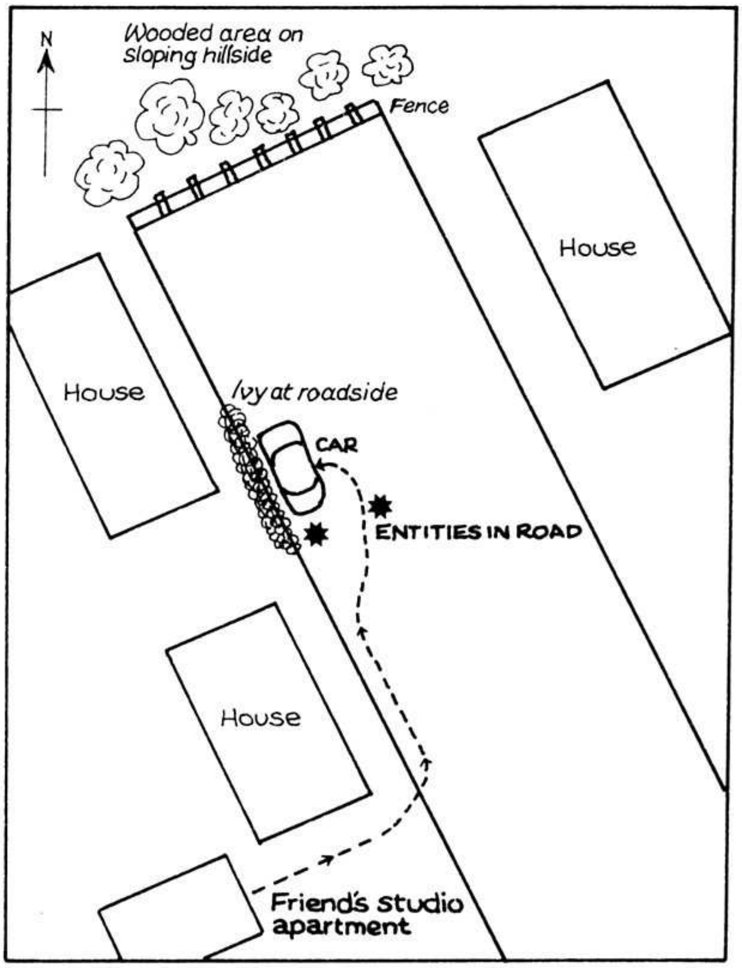


Fig. 9: Dotted line represents witnesses' route to car

of August 17, 1971, feeling he "is in the spotlight when he shouldn't be and doesn't want to be." For that reason he requested anonymity. However because of a deep desire to find out more of the encounter's real meaning, he has co-operated fully with the investigations carried out on behalf of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

His smoking, according to Dr. McCall, might indicate insecurity stemming from childhood; nevertheless, Hodges maintains an equable and good-natured personality.

Pete Rodriguez was interviewed on April 17, 1976. He is employed as an operating room technician in a large Southern California hospital. He also teaches OR technician classes during the day. He seems to be a calm, reliable young man, in his twenties. Regarding the Dapple Gray Lane encounter, he made the following statements.[3]

"I can't remember the year, probably the early part of 1970. I was still in school. John and I went to visit a friend of ours. It must have been rainy that night...it was misty. As we came out through the ivy, the car was parked on the left hand side of us. We must have passed right by it [the object in the road]. After we got in the car was when we actually saw it. It was on the ground in front of the car, maybe five or six feet away, in front of the right headlight. The headlights were focused on it. The colour I saw was red. I don't remember if the entire object was red and the lights made it look like there was a red light on it or if there was just a red light on this object. It looked like *something*. It wasn't just a rock or anything. It looked like something that could have been alive, or constructed.

(continued on page 26)

Fig. 10: John Hodges indicates approximate height of larger 'brain' entity. Photo taken from position in which witnesses' car was parked, facing south

Fig. 11: Fence at dead end of Dapple Gray Lane. Hillside and wooded area slope down and away. City (Los Angeles) miles beyond, hidden by smog.

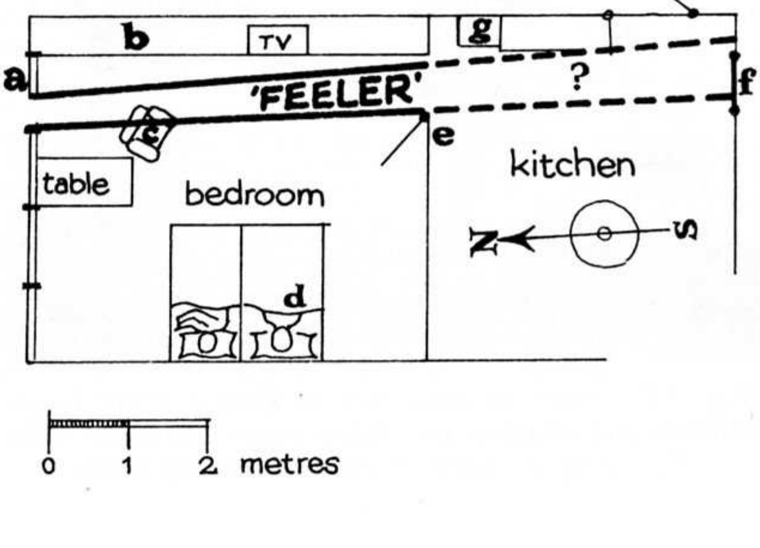
"SNAIL FEELER" ENTERS A ROOM

Ernst Berger

OF several unusual reports from the Vienna Basin area (a suspected "window") we at MUFON-CES received one which was a real puzzler. The occurrence was in September, 1975, and if it is UFO-related it may well be the Austrian counterpart of the Logrono, Spain, "light feeler" and room inspection case of June 22, 1972.[1] Whatever it was, it provided the witness with a short, but excellent chance to observe physically "impossible" light characteristics which fall into the "solid" light" category[2]. Thanks to the witness, an old, sober-minded woman, and a truly excellent observer, as we will see, a wealth of data was retrieved.

September 25, 1975 was a busy evening. At about 9.48 p.m. CET a brilliant meteor rushed through the night skies of Vienna and was seen by many citizens. Press reports followed and in their wake a series of other observations that had happened "around" the astronomical ones. The "meteor deception" (an old Austrian trick John A Keel should take down as a European Trojan Horse) was on once again. Some observers of non-meteoric events over Vienna that same night presented their experiences like: "Listen to what that meteor looked like to *us*..." to be ridiculed quickly. However, there was an easy way to separate them from the rest of the data – the time. Three events took place between 5.45 and 9.00 p.m., before the meteor. One concerned an oblong body seen over southern Vienna that hovered and suddenly sped away at a terrific rate with three coloured tails, one happened near Salzburg and dealt with a hovering white blob and the last one appeared like a green kite that was seen to fly suddenly at right angles on its west-east trajectory. There was but one event forthcoming after the time of the meteor. At first it was considered linked with astronomy by the witness and was finally reported out of curiosity.

Frau Elsa W., then aged 75 years, lives with her grown-up daughter Lotte in a third storey flat with large windows overlooking the tops of old lime trees



A word of explanation

Our contributor used the "snail" description for certain UFOs in his article "Luminous 'snails' near Traunstein, Austria" which was published in FSR Vol. 20, No. 2 of 1974. The objects on that occasion were said to look like "...luminous globes with fuzzy edges ...giving a so-called 'signal' consisting of two curved beams of light...which were projected slowly upwards like a pair of *snail feelers*...whose tips turned green when they stopped moving, when a green mist formed and then fell sideways, and the rays, or feelers, were gone."

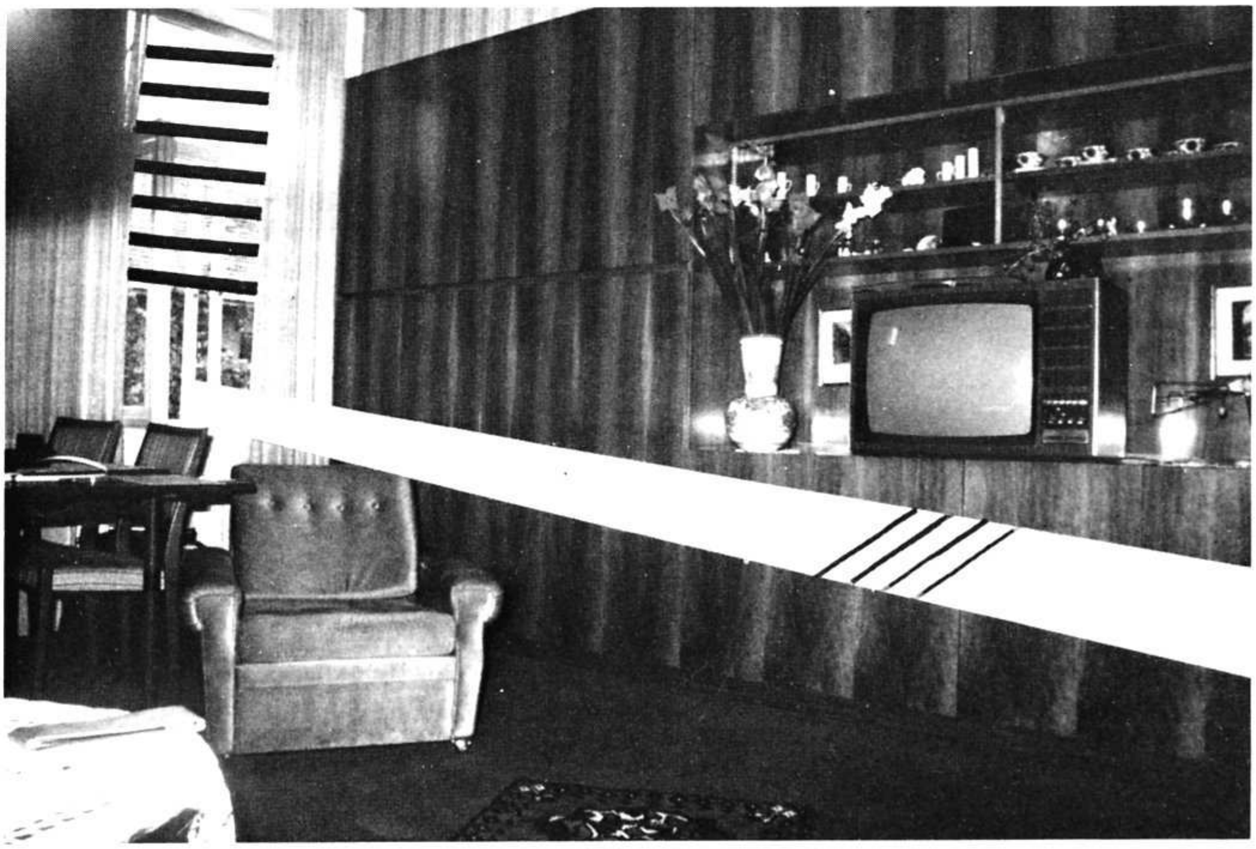
EDITOR

in an alley leading to the world-famous Schoenbrunn Imperial Palace of Vienna. The building is in the 12th district and looks terribly run-down but it contains some well-furnished flats with high, spacious rooms. Especially the W. bedroom (at day the living room) is neat and clean. From a wooden set of built-in furniture (see photograph and sketch of room) near the right double casement window a colour TV set faces the double bed which is converted to a couch in the daytime.

"We used to leave the left side of that window (both inner and outer) open all the time. It was a very warm day then," began Frau W. at our field investigation on October 7, 1975, 13 days after the event. She had switched off the TV at 10.00 p.m. on September 25 and had unplugged it. "I have a sleeping problem and could not find sleep that night, even after some reading. So it happened that I, unlike my daughter, was wide awake twenty minutes to midnight. You must not think I'm crazy, but it was the time 'it' came through the window." We have to add that the left side of the window was standing open but the shade (indicated by hatching in the photograph) had been down as far as the middle section of the inner window reducing the normal window opening by 50% (38.5 to 57.0 cm.).

"There it came in, fasting as lightning, but it was no lightning. It was a ray, bright as burning magnesium, crossing my room like a line. When it left I was stunned, waiting for a thunderclap, but there was none. It was eerie – a sharply outlined *stripe, flat. If I had* gone crackers due to old age or the like, you know, I would have told you of a parapsychological visitation. But I won't do this... There was no sound, not even a crackle...It shot in and went as far as the kitchen, perhaps the door of our flat – and back, out." The connecting door to the kitchen was open. The flat door (see sketch) is part of a wall that runs parallel to the window wall at nine metres 15 cm. distance.

According to Frau Elsa W.'s description the "band of light" stretched out from the window in a nine to ten metre-long sloping path right into the kitchen,



The "snail-feeler" superimposed on a photograph of Frau Elsa W's bed-sitting room. "Solid light, floating in the air, and not creeping along the carpet... it did not touch the furniture or illuminate anything."

at a minimum distance of four metres from her head "...like floating in the air, not creeping along the carpet or the like. A terribly good hit. It did not touch the furniture or illuminate anything." I asked her to repeat this. "No, *it did not illuminate the room* like summer lightning does, or when a thunderstorm rages outside. It was bright, even dazzling, but was no lightning and had no spreading luminosity." Having asked no leading questions, we were suddenly confronted with a typical "solid light" pattern, the "canal effect" as I once dubbed it. Typical examples are found in the Aveyron globe case[3] and the Sauvagny Type-I case[4]. Light that does not illuminate and is apparently a direct influence from the stimulus object on to the retina elements without light really present in the surrounding area.

Mrs. W. continued: "And it kind of shot in and was pulled back, or so it seemed. When it got out... I waited for thunder, and when there was none, after two or three minutes I rushed out of bed and thrust my head through the open space – into a cool night with flickering stars, no thunderstorm, all quiet. That's when I got my shock, really. I was unable to fall asleep until 4.00 a.m. In fact my original thoughts when the thing appeared were: 'Heavens! A thunderstorm – lightning? No, that isn't lightning! What luck I turned off the TV!' Then it was out and gone." We timed two to three seconds for the whole episode. Frau W. noticed no sound, odour, heat or rush of air.

After the "feeler's" departure, no light effect or sound was observed out on the street. It seems highly probable that the flat "feeler" came from something over the treetops and not out of the clear sky, but we have no witness for the something. Maybe it was good for the witness's blood pressure not to look out immediately after the receding "feeler".

Lotte W. commented: "I think our street window is the only one usually open in the autumn." I noticed later that the third story is the only one easily accessible from the air, because it is above the tree-tops and electric cables.

Now our "grilling session" began and within another hour additional details came to light. Mrs. W.'s account was presented so vividly and with such wit, with many interesting reactions, that it sounded genuine. She had not woken her daughter after the event because Lotte was fast asleep then. Her thoughts, again stimulated by our questioning, which was a one-way data retracting, switched from explanations like a flashlight used by pranksters (sitting invisible on treetops?) to St. Elmo's fire and short circuits (none was reported), but never to UFOs. She had no interest in the subject and never brought it up herself.

The sloping path, as can be seen in the photograph, touched the upper part of an easy chair which was standing there in the way at the time of the event. Neither chair nor protection blanket showed any marks. The TV set was not affected, as the W.s discovered the next day when they had a brilliant reception. No marks were on the carpet (I crawled along it from the window sill to the kitchen). An electric boiler in the bathroom was turned off at the time of the phenomenon and there was nothing that could have attracted it from outside in a logical way. The vertical width of the "band" was about 15 cm. at the spot where it crossed the air near the TV set. Diameter would be the wrong word as "it was not round, no tube...it was rather flat, like a thick band. It had no definite corners either." A vertical or

somewhat inclined "plank of light" thus seemed to be the best approximation.

If one looks at the cover illustration of FSR Vol. 19 No.2, one will notice that for Logrono, a similar "band-shaped snail-feeler" was drawn by the artist. Whether it was really flat and whether the room was illuminated by the "egg" as in the drawing is not mentioned in the *Stendek* report. If the "feeler" was flat and the dazzling object only unpleasant to Senor Bosque's eyes, not illuminating the room, the two cases would match. If, as in the FSR illustration, the Logrono "feeler" was widening with increasing distance from the object it should be noted that the Vienna "feeler" was widening too. Frau W. Observed that it seemed to have the right width to penetrate the window and connecting door without touching it, thus fanning from about 38 cm. to 72 cm. Had it been a rigid mass it would have had no chance to get out again (and of course never of getting in at all!).

I asked some more questions about the "band." Said Lotte: "It was dazzling and sharp, like a plane surface, although it seemed to have a more *compact* area, where it literally hurt my eyes. I saw the area only a split second before the draw-out, when it was in line with the TV set [*see hatched section in photograph*—E.B.]. "Maybe it was caused by the set." I shrugged my shoulders, then asked whether the "feeler" looked rigid, like a plank, although this was highly improbable after Frau W.'s remark on the widening width. "No," she replied, "the whole thing was alive — I just call it alive, not dead, especially after the retreat. It looked more ragged on its upper surface then, like a mixing [*turbulent*?—E.B.] process. Well, I only saw the upper surface, but it grew wavy." Lotte cut in: "I'd say it was pretty frustrated it didn't get anything in here and got angry." At least the W.s had kept their humour.

Did Frau W. actually see it withdraw or not? She replied: "It did not dissolve in place, really. The darkness grew bigger to the right, and the last inhomogenous piece rushed out." Naturally a clear-cut edge was not discernible. It all happened too quickly. The W.s were relieved nothing had been damaged. "I wonder whether the insurance company would have paid for it?" Lotte remarked with her dry humour.

Weather conditions on the night of September 25/26 were excellent. No clouds throughout the night, calm, a minimum of 14°C, 87% relative humidity near ground level. No thunderstorm activity in the area. A last 'phone conversation with the witness revealed nothing unusual. The treetops had developed normally in spring and Mrs. W.'s shock was overcome.

* * * * *

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Notes inserted in text by Eileen Buckle

References

1. FSR Vol. 19, No. 2, p. 10.
2. For an excellent recent survey see the catalogue of solid light cases by Bourtembourg-Ashton, SOBEPS, 1976.
3. FSR Vol. 16, Nos. 5, 6 and 7.
4. *Lumières Dans la Nuit* No. 137, p. 17, and *Ouranos* No. 11.

DAPPLE GRAY LANE *(continued from page 23).*

"I can't remember if it moved. It had a glare to it as if it were wet. I was startled...no sound from it that I could hear. My mind started turning really fast. I didn't know what to do. I said something like "What the heck is that," and John said something like, "Let's get out of here," and we took off. We tried to avoid it. I don't even remember if I looked back.

"The shape wasn't perfectly round — the edges were lumpy or like deflated. It was about the size of a basketball. It had a type of top and...lines... in it. In the upper right part was where I saw the brightest red (Figure 8).

"We didn't know what it was. Maybe it blocked my memory of remembering anything else, but that was all I saw. But it startled us enough to go away. If it was an appliance or something worth salvaging... some people throw TVs and radios out... I'd go investigate it. But it was enough to get the heck out of there!"

AD: You mentioned that your memory may have been blocked about it. What do you mean?

PR: Maybe what I meant was it seemed to happen so fast, and yet it seems like I saw more of it than I can remember. It seemed so clear — now it doesn't seem that clear. It seems no longer than five seconds, but it seems I looked at it longer because it looked wet like it was something...alive. I don't know."

Rodriguez at first was amenable to the idea of hypnotic regression. No details of Hodge's session were given him. However the pressure of Rodriguez's work precluded an immediate appointment. During subsequent days, further attempts were made without success. Rodriguez' vacation interfered during this period. Upon his return he withdrew from the idea of hypnotic regression, and eventually from any further contact at all.

Following the interview with Rodriguez, the sighting location was visited with Hodges, and photos and measurements were taken (Figures 9, 10).

Dapple Gray Lane is a country-like road. Some of the upper-middle class homes keep horses in their spacious yards. It dead-ends about twenty yards north of the sighting location. The sloping hillside beyond drops off for hundreds of feet into an isolated area, part of a wooded park (Figure 11). One might surmise that the entities, if indeed they were occupants from a UFO, had a suitable place to land their craft unseen.

[*Mrs. Druffel's report will be concluded in our next issue* — EDITOR]

Notes

1. Edited from a two-hour recording. Events concerning occupant sighting transcribed, in Druffel files.
2. Edited from a ninety-minute recording; complete transcript in MUFON and Druffel files.
3. Edited from a forty-five minute recording; complete transcript in MUFON and Druffel files.

"TRIDENT" UFO REPORT CORROBORATED

Interview with the Commander of the TAP Boeing 727 involved in the Lisbon sighting of July 30, 1976

Vitor Santos

Although a possible explanation has been offered (see page 2), this article is retained. Translation from the Portuguese by Gordon Creighton

FOLLOWING the request of Mr. Omar Fowler, who obtained such an excellent interview with the Captain and crew of the British Airways *Trident* about their observation of strange aerial phenomena while approaching Faro Airport on the evening of July 30, 1976*, my group was able to interview the skipper of the TAP jetliner who witnessed the event.

The officer is Commandante Antonio Cavalheira, aged 45, whose previous posts in aviation consisted of 15 years with the DTA in Angola, flying aircraft of the airlines served by the TAG Company, and who has spent the past five years as a 727 captain of Transportes Aeros Portugueses (TAP, or Portuguese Air Transport).

Here follows a synthesised account of the main passages from the taped interview:

Comdt. Cavalheira: "On July 30, 1976, we did a night flight, (TAP 126), and then the same crew flew to Vienna to bring back a charter flight. When we were on the charter job, with the aircraft ready to take off, and with the doors already closed after we had completed the checking lists, the co-pilot, who had asked the control tower for the word to start up the engines, said to me: 'We are going to wait for a bit, because there's an aircraft just about to land and they won't let us start up until that plane is down.'

"These lights, which then seemed to me to be on an aircraft, were lights like those that aircraft turn on at 10,000 ft. and which give a very big flare-like luminosity. As the Sun was almost about to set, and so was very low in the sky – and the sky very clear – it did indeed seem to be another aircraft that was listening in on Faro Control Tower's wave length. The aircraft that was asking for instructions to land at Faro seemed to be the same aircraft as the one with the illuminated lights.

"Then the Tower at once gave us the authorization to take off. So I then said to the co-pilot: 'It must be either the one thing or the other; either that aircraft is a long way off, or it must be due to the intense brightness of the Sun. After that, we had to start up the engines. If I am not mistaken, our take-off was in the opposite direction from the light, which was over in the direction of Lisbon, and consequently behind us, which is why we could no longer see it.

"The light was indeed a very big one. It was like a planet, but with a much whiter light. To put it simply, it could be taken for a planet because it did not twinkle. Normally, planets appear with a slightly yellowish light, which wasn't so in this case. It was a very, very brilliant light. At certain determined periods of the year, Venus is seen in that same position, very low on the horizon and very bright. That's how it was, and we don't remember anything else.

Trident–Lisbon Control discussion heard

"We were on the Faro Tower's frequency, and we took off for Vilar Formosa and Zamora, and from there we at once passed over to the Lisbon Tower frequency. When we were at 15 – 17,000 ft. – we must have been just about to arrive over the vicinity of Beja – I began to hear a BEA *Trident* and the Lisbon Control Tower talking, and at that moment I looked once more towards the horizon and saw the light again, clearly, but once again I immediately thought of Venus. But, the simple fact is, there was one thing about it that I only realized later: and this was that, instead of going down (if it was a planet, it would have to go down, because of the rotation of the Earth), this light was doing the precise opposite – going up. The crew were all very worked up about it, but were saying at that point that it would have to be Venus.

"At this stage, the mechanic and the co-pilot began looking at it, along with the chief steward who had just come in, and all three of them were now watching the thing attentively. The systems operator again insisted that it '...must be Venus, as does happen at this time in the year.' Meanwhile, I continued to listen in to the conversation between the pilot of the BEA plane and the Lisbon Control Tower, in which it was mentioned how many miles west of Lisbon the light was, and then we all started watching it closely. Obviously, it was a very big light, very bright, and then we realized that there was no planet of that size, and that the apparent movement of the light was very fast. As you know, the planets 'move' very slowly.

"I noticed how excited all the crew were and then, suddenly, just as the skipper of the BEA plane did, I saw another shadow which seemed to be beside the other light. I thought however that this must be the trail of an aircraft heading out towards the Atlantic and, as the Sun was very low, consequently seemed to be much darker.

The light rises

"But not so with the light. It continued to rise until it was out of sight, or rather until I could no

* See Omar Fowler's report "UFO Seen from 'Trident' near Lisbon" in FSR Volume 22, No.4 (Pub. November 1976)

longer see it because our own movement was very fast relatively to it. We were now flying at about 800 kph. I recall, however, that we continued to see the thing for a very long way, maybe almost up to the moment when we made contact with the Madrid Control Tower, that is to say, when we were over Vilar Formosa, which means we had been watching it for over half an hour. The phenomenon was observed from various angles, and from every one of them the light was far too bright to be a planet.

"As regards the degree of intensity of the light, it was very, very strong. The fact of the matter is, it was on a pretty bright day, with the sky extremely clear, and the Sun very low. One of the things it could have been is a satellite of the *Eros* or *Comsat* types, communication satellites that are at relatively low altitudes and that shine on account of their own composition. As regards its colour, the light remained steady. A white light, maybe a bit bluish, or faintly yellowish. In the summer there is always a very thick layer of mist, which accounts for the fact that the light looked different to me according to its altitude. When I saw it for the first time, it seemed like a plane's landing light, totally white and very powerful.

"I cannot estimate what height it was at. When I was down on the ground and was looking at it laterally, I thought it was an aircraft coming in to land and headed directly for Faro. Both the satellite explanation and the UFO explanation could apply. The one explanation that cannot fit is that it was a planet.

"I don't know, *de facto*, whether the light was stationary for 90 minutes. In relation to me, its movement, if it was very far off, would have been almost nil when I was on the ground. But it couldn't have been, as we saw it later. For its movement was very rapid... too rapid. And, for a fact, was certainly not the movement that it had when I saw it from the ground, when we were stationary on the runway.

Conversation with Trident pilot and Lisbon Tower

"It was when, at 3,000 feet, we passed over to the Lisbon Control Tower, that I first heard their conversation with the BEA *Trident* and I began to pay attention to what the pilot was saying. Later the *Trident* pilot asked me if I could see anything. I replied that I was listening to their conversation, and that I could indeed see something and also something else, which was the shadowy shape, for which my explanation was as given below, namely that it was the trail of an aircraft.

"My conversation with the Lisbon Control Tower was more or less as follows:—

"**Tower**: 'TAP No. 30-and-so, can you see a light over Lisbon?'

"**Cavalheira**: 'Yes, I do. And I've been watching it for quite a while.'

"**Tower**: 'But at what distance do you see it?'

"**Cavalheira**: 'We are told by the BEA machine that it is 12 or 20 miles west of Lisbon. Any estimate of distance is very difficult for me, for I am a long way off. But that it is over on the other side of Lisbon seems to be certain.'

Shadowy objects and ground witnesses

"It was at this juncture that I began seeing the shadowy thing, and then I began to get excited. Then my co-pilot said it could not be a planet.

"In the meantime, Lisbon had asked me whether it might perhaps not be an aircraft. My answer was: 'No.' It assuredly could not be, since it was stationary.

"Then Lisbon reported that there were crowds of people on the Rossio Square (Lisbon's chief square) and that they had already received lots of excited phone calls.

"While we were talking with Lisbon I heard, on the same frequency, the BEA machine which was contacting Lisbon and later was in contact with me, and I was told by it that the relative movement of the object was increasing steadily. I heard what he was saying perfectly clearly, because he was speaking very correct English.

"After that, I stopped the conversation, because my co-pilot was very excited, and I don't remember very clearly what he was saying. Then a plane of the Portuguese Air Force made contact with me, and said they were observing a strange light, but that it was in a bad position for them to see it well. At that point we saw the light was travelling very fast.

"The 'thing' was going straight up, very fast. It rose maybe half of the 90 degrees of arc from the horizon to the vertical in about ten minutes. And of course there is no planet that can do that. A planet takes two or three hours to descend the 45 degrees until it vanishes over the horizon.

Radar echo

"At one moment in the affair, the radar operator told us that he had picked up an echo. And that is strange, because the radar man is enclosed in a compartment and is not easily deceived. The radar registered a decrease, and that is absolutely definite. Consequently, when the operator said the echo was quite a strange one, it could not possibly have been the BEA machine, since that would be identified immediately. There is one thing that has got me very puzzled: if they had got an echo on the radar, then it must have been quite close, because the radar range can't be much more than 100 miles. Now, if the thing is 100 miles distant, it is at that distance in the whole Secam.

"In that case, it could have been a satellite, which might have been at 200,000 feet — about 60 kilometres — and therefore within the range of the radar. If I am not mistaken, there are satellites at from a height of 200,000 ft. or so upwards. Again, it might have been a sonde-balloon. These balloons are very big, and besides that they are also white and transparent. As they rise their volume grows. The fact that the thing moved in the way that it did could be perfectly well explained by its being a sonde-balloon.

"As for its luminosity, that could have been the luminosity of a balloon, which is purposely white in order to reflect the light. However there was one abnormal fact about it — and that was the speed at which it was moving.

"This is the first time I have seen a phenomenon of this kind. I admit I was pretty excited, maybe

because I do in fact believe in the existence of UFOs, and I even go so far as to believe that the governments — and principally the Americans — know about this and won't want to reveal anything about it. But I fully accept the existence of extraterrestrial beings. I cannot see why it is that we should have to possess a civilization that enables us to get to the Moon and that there should not be another civilization that is visiting the Earth and does not want to make contact with us. I also think that there are machines invented by mankind that are likewise giving rise to phenomena of this kind, especially military weapons and spy-satellites.

"But I never managed to conclude my conversation with the captain of the *Trident*. I remember that I asked him to give me the position of the light, to which he replied that it was some miles to the south-west of Lisbon. Meanwhile, the frequency was becoming rather saturated with traffic, so I shut up. Later, the Tower controller told me that a jet aircraft of the Portuguese Air Force had already been sent up.

"I observed the phenomenon of the light for about half an hour. It takes the plane about 40 minutes to go from Faro to Vilar Formoso, and I only ceased to have it in sight when we were very near to Vilar Formoso. One of the things I do remember is that the light diminished in volume, which indicates that it could not have been very far away. Its shape was round. If we consider for example the light of Venus, which is a planet that can be seen very clearly, with an apparent diameter of 5 cms or so, then this light would have been at least 30 cms or so in diameter, which is indeed very big. Compared with the light from a star, it would mean that this light was almost the size of a bicycle lamp. Imagine a star in the sky, and then, right beside us, a bicycle lamp, and their relative proportions would have been very much as in this case. The light was... well, there's no word you can apply to it. It was just a very massive light. For example, you can make milk a very clear colour if you add a lot of water to it. This light was like pure milk.

We are indebted to Omar Fowler chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP) and a founder member of the UFO Investigation Network (UFOIN), for obtaining this valuable report for publication in *Flying Saucer Review*. His colleague, our contributor, is chairman of the Centre for the Study of Astonomy and Unusual Phenomena (CEAFI) of Porto, Portugal.

EDITOR

A 1967 LANDING IN MADAGASCAR

H. Julien

We are indebted to the Editor of *Lumières Dans La Nuit* for permission to reproduce this case, which was published in LDLN No. 160 (December 1976). Our contributor is a Regional Investigator for LDLN. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

MONSIEUR WOLF, residing at La Verdière (83), was good enough to furnish the following details when I interviewed him.

Of German origin, he served in the French Foreign Legion with a view to securing French nationality and ultimately settling here. He now runs a hotel very competently in the Haut Var region.

Here is his story:

"It was in May 1967. I was in Madagascar, and serving in the Foreign Legion. We had just been out on a reconnaissance exercise in bush terrain. We were in hourly radio contact with Central Headquarters. We had halted at noon in a clearing about 100 metres wide and begun to eat. The weather was fine. Suddenly we observed the arrival and descent of a machine of indefinable colouring. I am colour-blind myself, but I can state definitely that the thing shone very brightly, and was of the colour of a new coin shining in the sunlight. Around it there was an intense, dazzling glow. It came down with the motion of a falling leaf, and you would have said that there must have been some sort of accident — it was like a shining egg on the end of a piece of string. It came down very rapidly. And we felt a very powerful ground shock when it landed. And then a piercing whistling sound. By now the craft was no longer luminous.

"After that the whole thing was unbelievable. There were 23 of us Legionnaires, with one officer and four non-commissioned officers. And we were all paralyzed. All of us saw the machine land and take off again, *but none of us perceived the lapse of time.*

"Let me explain: when the machine had departed, we all recovered the use of our limbs. We were all in exactly the same positions and the same places as we were in when it had landed. But when we checked up on the time, we realized that it was now 3.15 p.m. *Two and three-quarter hours had passed without our perceiving it.* We had missed three radio rendevous with Headquarters. Our Officer got a fearful ticking off for it, for he was incapable of giving any effective explanation.

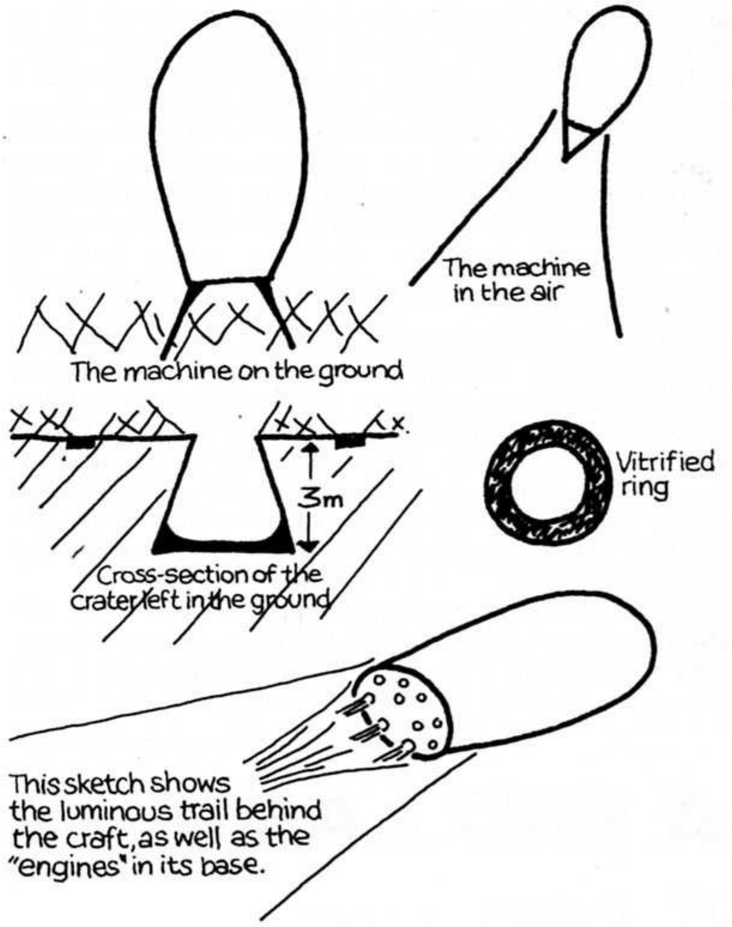
"The machine was smooth, with no visible doors or windows. It appeared to bear no markings. No antenna. It was like a smooth egg, twice as high as it was wide. I can't say what its exact size was, given the amount of vegetation in the clearing. But, comparing it with the height of the trees as it was taking off, you could reckon that it was between seven and

eight metres high. In its base it had several openings, of which we were able to get a good view as it took off. There were flames coming from them – not normal flames, nor comparable with anything known to us. These flames or lights were of various colours. One could have taken them for flames, but they must surely have been something else. Something like what you see when you use a welding machine to cut metal. Each of the openings emitted a "flame", the whole thing producing one big thick short flame about one-twentieth of the length of the machine itself.

"It had legs. I did not see them, because of the vegetation, but on the ground there were three marks, set in a triangle, where it had stood. In the middle of the triangle there was a charred crater three metres deep – a crater which widened out towards its base. At the bottom of the crater there were some crystals of all colours, like bits of broken glass. The bottom of the crater was full of them, especially in the corners. It was like a vitrified ring.

"When the craft departed, it rose up slowly until it was above the trees. Then it vanished at a fantastic speed, as though sucked up into the sky. It left a sort of trail in the air behind it.

"Headquarters ordered us not to approach the landing site and not to discuss the matter among ourselves. Some specialists arrived by plane from Paris to interrogate us. We were made to swear on oath that we would keep it secret. We were visited by the doctors and we were made to undergo tests. For two days after the event we all had violent headaches, with a buzzing in the ears and a powerful beating in the area of the temples. We were not told the results of the tests made on us."



SWAMP GAS FROM THE PAST

Luis Schönherr

NOW and then you come across reports which sound very familiar to the student of our subject, although they were published long before UFOs began to make headlines in our newspapers. An article of this sort I have found recently in an old issue of a popular scientific periodical widely circulated in German speaking countries.[1] Its author tries at first to give a proper definition for the so-called will-o'the-wisps. In view, apparently, of the phenomenological difference in the various reports he concludes "...that under the flag of the will-o'the-wisp a number of completely different phenomena are sailing. These have nothing in common, except the fact that they are spreading a certain luminosity".

A number of possible scientific explanations for at least part of the phenomena is mentioned. It turns out that the author is a bit sceptical about the most popular view, according to which the decomposition of organic matter and the accompanying production of hydrogen, carbon dioxide and methane (swamp gas) may be responsible for those lights. In his opinion the general content of inflammable swamp gas is so low and the content of carbon dioxide is so high, that it was difficult to imagine how such a mixture could burn at all, the more so as nothing was known about the process of ignition.[2]

As an alternative explanation he mentions the idea of a 'cold' light produced by bacteria, which hypothesis is ascribed to the Englishman Sanford. An observation by the German physicist Knorr is quoted, according to which no warmth was noted although the observer held his brass mounted walking stick into such a light for a quarter of an hour.

After having considered a possible combination of both of the above explanations – that gas from the swamp carries with it luminosity producing bacteria, which luminosity would increase on contact with atmospheric oxygen – the author cautions the reader against a premature conclusion: this may be so, he says, but conclusive proof is still lacking.

It is further admitted that St. Elmo's fire would be a reasonable explanation in some cases. But here too the writer is very cautious, for he observes that this explanation would have to be ruled out if there had been trees in the vicinity which had shown no such glow. The possibility that glow worms and fire flies may be mistaken for a far bigger light on dark nights,

(continued on page iii of cover)

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Carlo Rossi: sketch correction

Dear Sir,—I notice that you have recently published (FSR, Vol. 21, No. 5) an account of the very important case of Carlo Rossi at San Pietro a Vico. I find however that the accompanying sketch given in Mary Boyd's article is not the correct one. The sketch which you have published is one that was issued at the time by the local newspaper. *However, it was very different from the original drawing which had been made by Carlo Rossi himself.*

This case is one that I am very well acquainted with. It is one of the few really "strong" Italian cases which I investigated personally for my book about UFOs, and I am therefore enclosing herewith a copy of the sketch giving the *correct* shape of the UFO, as supplied by the son (Sergio Rossi) and grandson (Maurizio Rossi) of the witness, who as Mrs. Boyd correctly reported, died about ten years ago.

As can be seen, this sketch has no sort of "rotor blades" on top. That roto-like effect was simply a piece of imagination supplied by the local newspaper's journalist!

The correct sketch shows the very important feature of the tube beneath the craft which – as was stated in your report – was apparently taking up water from the river Serchio. (We all know how important this relationship between UFOs and water is!)

Although Carlo Rossi was certainly quite shaken by the spectacle of the UFO, the thing that upset him far more was the episode, some weeks later, when a mysterious "stranger" offered him a "bad" cigarette. Carlo Rossi was pretty worried about it all, and he used to say: "I wonder if they want to do me harm, maybe, because I saw the thing in the river?"

When he died subsequently, the circumstances of the case were mysterious and very suspicious. He was returning home on his bicycle when he was knocked down by a car. The car and driver were never identified.

Here is the correct description of the appearance of the UFO, as given by Rossi's grandson:—

"The cupola was completely transparent, while the rest of the disc, including its legs and the ladder, were of a shining white metal.

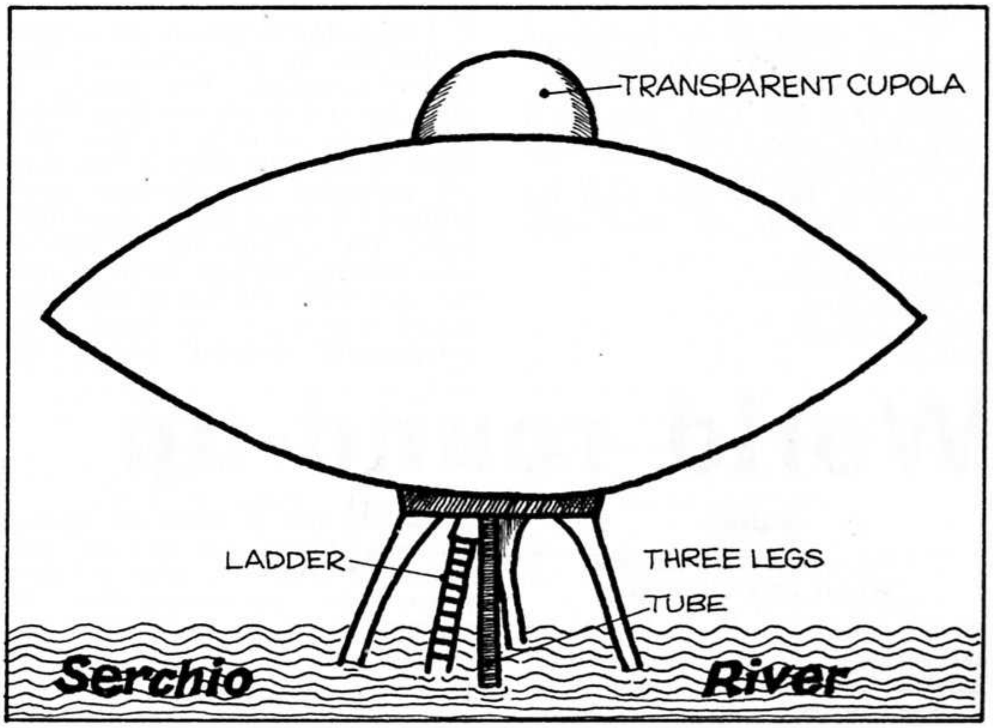
"When the people aboard the craft caught sight of my grandfather, a red light came on in the cupola, and at once beams of light were flashed at him, but he managed to avoid them by throwing himself down into the ditch at the foot of the embankment on which he was standing and observing the UFO.

"Immediately after the UFO had risen up from the river, where it seemed to be drawing in water, the ladder, and the legs, which were standing on the bed of the river, were at once taken in and, spinning at immense speed on its own axis, it shot up into the sky and vanished.

"As the disc was rising, my grandfather noticed that either the transparent cupola or the upper part of the disc, made of darker metal, seemed to be motionless, while on the other hand the rest of the disc was spinning extremely fast, as though around a central pivot."

All these details are from my forthcoming book (not yet finished)

Yours sincerely,
Marco Marianti (Dr.)
Via Cino da Pistoia 7
40136 Bologna, Italy.



Note: *As we all know, the "traffic accident" is an extremely handy way of liquidating people, and those who have made a study of the "MIB problem" are aware of a number of cases of this sort which seem extremely suspecious. We are most grateful to Dr. Marco Marianti for these important further details.*

The sketch accompanying Mary Boyd's article was of course the one given in the book **UFO In Italia** *whose publishers (Corrado Tedeschi, of Firenze, 1974) evidently did not realise that the drawing used in the local newspaper was only a journalist's imaginative contribution and not the work of the eyewitness himself.*

There is also one other important point of variance between the version given in that book and Dr. Marianti's version. The book gave the date of the encounter with the UFO (Carlo Rossi's first experience) as 3.00 a.m. on July 25, 1952. Dr. Marianti says that it was not July 25, but April 25.

Gordon Creighton

Moon spires

Dear Sir,—While looking through a book I bought recently, *Astronomy Today* by Fred Hoyle (Heineman, 1976), I came across a very interesting photograph on page 43.

The caption reads, "An object at left center has rolled downhill on the Moon, leaving a series of marks like prints in a snowfield." The unusual thing about this "object" is that it is casting a very noticeable long, triangular shadow. This immediately jogged my memory and sure enough on p. 32 of FSR Sept/Oct 1968 was a photograph showing similar "spires"

on the Moon. According to the article accompanying the photograph scientists agree that the shadows are unusual "...but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface."

If the object in the photograph mentioned is indeed a naturally-formed spire, which its shadow seems to suggest, then may I ask: *how can a spike-shaped object roll down a hill and land perfectly upright?*

I would like to hear what the scientists have to say about that.

Yours sincerely,
Ronald G. Twine,
11 Milton Road,
Cowley, Oxford
Oxford.

Time Travel

Dear Sir,—On reading an article, from your magazine, "Ufonauts as Time Travellers" by S.E. Priest, I read a section that confused me, and I will tell it to you as I see it (Vol 21 No. 6).

I would like to refer to the section in brackets at the bottom of the second paragraph; "In passing, I think it is true to say that Time-travel can only be travel in the past. The future at any given point in time is as yet unformed and therefore non-existent." I would like to argue this point. Let us take for instance a time traveller, the year 2578, to visit the year 1976. On leaving this time period, according to Mr. Priest, he is automatically doomed, because he leaves his time period of the year 2578 to enter the time period of the year 1976. On doing this he becomes a member of the same time period as us. Therefore he is stuck for life in the year 1976 because, according to Mr. Priest, "the future at any given point in time is as yet unformed and therefore non-existent, so the future for the Time-travellers and us on earth is non-existent. Therefore how can the time traveller return to his own time period.

Could you please explain this? Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
S. Suddell
Yew Tree Cottage, St. Brides Major
Nr. Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

Over to you, Mr. Priest — EDITOR.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

England

UFO, with possible physical effects, over Gateshead

We are indebted to Jenny Randles for this account from the North East of an incident investigated by William Muir.

The story was told by Mrs. M. the mother of 15-year-old Thomas. Thomas is afraid of discussing the story in detail, because he believes that he would be thought of as mad. On October 24, 1976, at 6.10 p.m., he was called to the door of his home in Low Fell, Gateshead, by a twelve-year-old friend, Andrew.

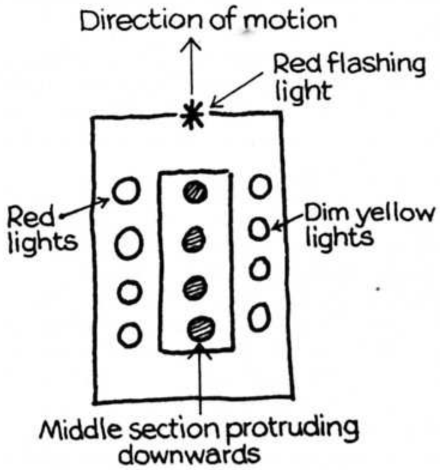
A few minutes after going outside he came back in and told his mother that he had just been watching a UFO. As he did so he switched on his battery-operated cassette tape recorder. This had been working perfectly a few moments before, but now it began to malfunction. The tape which was on it was replayed, but the speech was all speeded up and garbled, and the tape itself spilled out of the machine, splitting into little pieces. It was thrown away. Mrs. M. attests to this event, and says that the machine has otherwise worked normally.

Intrigued by this she immediately called Andrew in to relate his story. He did so, and confirmed all the details which Thomas had given, plus a few additional ones (which is only to be expected as he in fact had been watching the object for about one and a half minutes before he called for his friend). Both had watched the object together for a further 20–30 seconds.

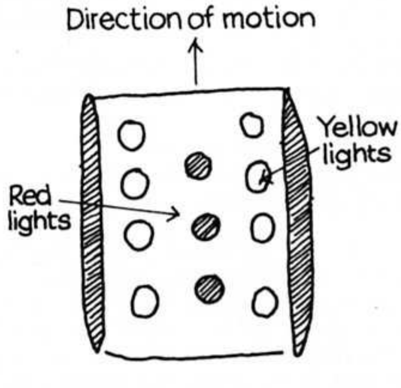
Mrs. M. also got the two boys to draw the object, independently, and their drawings do appear to agree to a considerable extent.

Basically the object was described as looking like a square or oblong platform, which was glowing and which had centre red lights and dim yellow lights surrounding these. It appeared to have a projection underneath.

Andrew's sketch:



Thomas' sketch:



It was travelling quite slowly at a height estimated to be about 1000 feet. At first it came from the south, but then turned northwestwards and accelerated suddenly speeding away into the distance. Thomas said that it was completely silent, but Andrew had heard a noise which he described as like a 'sucking' sound (as if air were being displaced).

The weather was dry, and the sky was clear, although it was just dark. It was, however, light enough for an aircraft to have been recognised immediately, and there appears to be little reason to doubt that the boys concerned did indeed see something unusual.

Wales

Lorry driver scared by UFO

From the *County Times & Express & Gazette* of November 27, 1976 we learn how,—"A young Rhayader lorry driver admitted he was 'scared to death,' early one morning, this week, when a 'flying saucer' appeared above his steel-filled lorry.

"It happened about 4.15 a.m. on Tuesday, at Marteg, a few miles north of Rhayader and only minutes after 24-year-old Mr. Michael Bufton of Green Gardens, Rhayader, had started out on his drive to Shotton steelworks.

"He was leaning forward in the driving cab adjusting the station finder on his radio, when he glanced up and saw the object hovering a few hundred feet above his vehicle.

" 'It was almost cigar shaped and a fair sized thing, belching orange and red flame. After a short time it veered off and over the top of the mountain in the direction of the top of the Elan Valley,' said Mr. Bufton.

"He stopped the lorry and got out, but only in time to see the object moving away.

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Artwork: Pauline Bowen

"Mr. Bufton who admitted he was scared to death by the sighting said he had never seen anything like it before. He also admitted he was reluctant at first to tell anyone about the incident when he returned hom.

" 'I thought they might think I was trying a leg pull and they wouldn't believe me, but it was no joke, I was really frightened' he said.

"The police said they had not received any other reports of any such sightings, but were keeping an open mind on the incident."

Credit: **Peter Liss** of Shrewsbury

Spain

UFO blacks out lighthouse

According to a report received from the UFO investigator Senor I. Benvenuty Cabral of Sevilla, a case which he followed up in 1976 involved the unusual feature that the light of a lighthouse was extinguished.

On August 11, 1976, at 11.00 p.m. on the La Linea beach, at Cadiz, two boys aged about 13 or 14 were standing chatting together and facing towards the western entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar when they observed a UFO approaching from over the sea. They were unable to describe a precise shape, but said it glowed with a yellowish-white light and that it had a sort of "axis" which went right through it from one side to the other. They watched it as it climbed rapidly, changing colour the while, from a pale yellow to whitish and then to a vivid yellow. As it travelled on a curving course they saw it approach what they took to be a "mother ship". It passed once around the "mother ship" and then entered it. They noticed that, while they were watching it, the light of a lighthouse opposite where they were standing was temporarily extinguished. After taking on board the smaller object, the "mother ship" remained there where it was.

The boys are quoted as having said the apparent size of the small UFO was no more than the size of the head of a pin, from which it seems that the operation must have been conducted at a great height.

Credit: **I. Benvenuty Cabral**, and **Ignacio Darnaude**, both of Sevilla. Translation: **Gordon Creighton.**

Cape Trafalgar sighting

At 10.30 p.m. one night, between August 4 and 10 of 1974, a party of five campers and their children observed a whitish-orange, cone-shaped UFO over the sea. The observers were in a small cove called Canos de Meca, slightly to the east of Cape Trafalgar. The UFO performed a triangular flight out over the Strait of Gibralta and the witnesses thought it went as far as Tangiers, which is 40 km. distant, but the investigators who examined the case felt it improbable that the witnesses could have been sure how far it went out over the sea before returning. When first sighted by the party, the UFO was stationary above a partly submerged group of rocks some 500 m. or so out in the sea.

The UFO appeared to be silent, and was emitting whitish-orange flashes of light. They thought its diameter might be in the neighbourhood of 30–50 cms. and its height above the rocks likewise only about 50 cms. It was there for some time before flying off and they were able to observe it at leisure through binoculars.

After returning to its position above the rocks, the UFO remained there a while again and then departed.

Credit: **Sr. Ignacio Darnaude** of Sevilla, and **Srs. Miguel Peyro Enrique Nogueira** of the C.I.E.F.E. UFO Investigation Group, Sevilla. Translation: Gordon Creighton.

SWAMP GAS FROM THE PAST *(continued from page 30)*

when it is difficult to estimate distances correctly, is also considered.

But lastly the authors have to admit that there are observations that cannot easily be associated with any known phenomena.

A certain Dr. Filopanti visited a place near Bologna (Italy) where such phenomena were alleged to occur repeatedly. He could actually see a light appear, which moved and ascended to a height of five metres where it went out. Before this the observer was able to ignite a bunch of oakum fastened to a stick by holding it into the light.

The German ornithologist von Homeyer reported a classic case of the mysterious will-o'the-wisp. First the light moved beside the road approaching the observer up to 200 metres, then receding again and so on, but without ever coming within reach. It could not be chased, nor was it possible to seize it cunningly. This observation lasted two hours during which the light covered a distance of approximately two kilometres. Finally it stopped above a completely inaccessible swamp.

In another case another observer saw a luminosity, five metres high, behind some trees which appeared distinctly as silhouettes in front of the light. When the observer approached, the light became more and more blurred and was finally no more than a luminous, fluctuating mass. Allegedly the observer then jumped into its midst, but he felt no heat. The luminosity persisted only for a moment and suddenly it was completely dark.

Our author closes his article with the remark: "What does it help if we are told, in connection with this last observation, that it was no will-o'the-wisp, but an 'Erdlicht'[3]! This is as if saying that the lights are 'spontaneous odd-lights,' the cause of which is on a 'higher plane of existence.' Surely many observations can be reduced to known facts, but also there is many an unambiguous description which cannot at present be explained."

Notes

1. Dr. Fritz Möller: "Was sind Irrlichter?" in: Kosmos, *Handweiser für Naturfreunde,* Frankh'ache Verlangshandlung, Stuttgart, 30, Jahrgang, 1933, page 337.
2. Phosphine (PH_3) is spontaneously inflammable when hydrogen phosphide (P_2H_4) is present. Methane (CH_4) could in turn be ignited by this. See Raymond Fowler, MUFON Field Investigator's Manual, 2nd Edition, June 1975, page 70.
3. I am unable to translate the German term 'Erdlicht' adequately. Literally this means 'earth-light' but this is probably the question of an occult term which was in use in that era.

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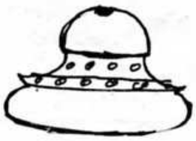

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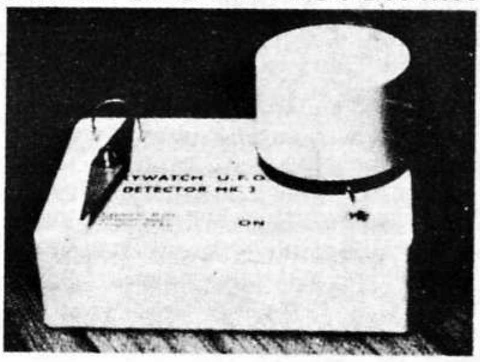

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